HOTTER THAN EVER @ redeyechicago.com

redeye

Friday
DECEMBER 9, 2011

★ FREE ★
A Chicago Tribune publication

WARM + BUZZY

Cozy up to sipping season with haute chocolate that's sure to turn up the heat *pages 22-23*

The snowdrift at Morso.
LENNY GILMORE/ REDEYE PHOTO

BEARS VS. TEBOWS, ER, BRONCOS

pages 16-17

What would a dude's Pinterest page look like? *4*

Virginia Tech site of another fatal day *14*

Everybody knows somebody in 'New Year's Eve' *58*

BY RENEE MAILHIOT | METROMIX@TRIBUNE.COM » GET MORE EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYECHICAGO.COM

EAT

FREE

CUSTOM EATS
Pizza Persona
614 W. Diversey Pkwy. 773-327-8500

Help celebrate this Lincoln Park pizzeria's grand opening by chowing down on your own customized one-topping, 10-inch pizza. Start by choosing your crust from wheat, white or gluten-free, paired with the sauce of your liking. Too indecisive? Take a pick from one of the spot's signature creations. 11 a.m. Sunday.

BUENAS DIAS
Cantina 46
46 E. Superior St. 312-664-0100

Switch up your usual brunch experience with a spicier vibe at Pibil Pop-Up Pig Roast. A Mexican suckling pig is prepared by chef Troy Graves, formerly of Eve and Tallulah, and served family style along with tortillas, beans and rice. All-you-can-drink mango mimosas also are included. 11 a.m. Sunday. $25. RSVP required.

DO

FREE

PET PAWTY
Kimpton's Hotel Allegro
171 W. Randolph St. 312-236-0123

Bring along your furry friend, or any critter, to share in holiday cheer at Santa Paws. Your pet can pose for photos with Santa Claus, and optional donations are collected to support Chicago's Anti-Cruelty Society. Dogs from the shelter also are available for adoption. 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS
Kiehl's Since 1851
520 N. Michigan Ave. 312-321-3601

FREE

Spot this season's "Top Chef" contestants from Moto, Chris Jones and Richie Farina, at this skin-care company's opening of its Midwest flagship store. The duo is preparing Karnival-themed snacks for the crowd. Live entertainment, such as balloon twisters, adds to the premise, and the first 160 people in the door win a facial cleanser. 4 p.m. Friday.

DRINK

CHEERS TO BEERS
2 Sparrows *553 W. Diversey Pkwy. 773-234-2320*

Skip the light beers and end your week by splurging at Beer Dinner. Wash down a four-course meal with pairings from Finch's Beer Company. $60. Friday. 6 p.m. RSVP required.

FOOD TRUCK ALERT Hungry while tree hunting? Duck 'N' Roll and Taquero Fusion park it at Sprout Home this weekend.

A Chicago Tribune publication

redeyechicago.com

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GETTY IMAGES

Sample short answer questions from 2012 applications

Examples of essay questions on 2012 college applications that ask for short answers:

University of Notre Dame
You have 150 words. Take a risk.

Brown University (25 words or fewer)
If I could do something with no risk of failing, I would ...
I felt like I truly belonged when ...

University of North Carolina (20 words)
Most overrated superhero:
Most underrated superhero:
Former kindergarten fear:
Gadget that needs inventing:

Yale University (25 words or less)
Recall a compliment you received that you especially value.

Elon University (two sentences)
It would surprise my friends to know that I ...

SHORT AND SWEET

Quirky questions add twist to college apps

Chicago Tribune

Let's say you are confronting one of the most important decisions of your life. But first, you must answer this:

My favorite thing about last Tuesday?

And do it in 25 words or less.

The question may seem like it's taken from Twitter or an online dating survey, but it is designed for a match of a different sort: Getting into college.

The essay question is new for 2012 applications to the University of Maryland and is just one example of a wave of quirkiness and brevity that has swept the usually staid world of college admissions essays in recent years. Some colleges have added questions that might elicit answers more suitable for a text or tweet, and others have introduced video to the process.

With deadlines looming at numerous top-tier schools, many high school seniors who have struggled with writer's block are now in official panic mode. The traditional "Why this school?" treatise still is a fixture on most applications, but today's high school seniors also are grappling with:

Imagine you have to wear a costume for a year of your life. What would you pick and why? —Brandeis University in Massachusetts

What is your favorite ride at the amusement park? How does this reflect your approach to life? —Emory University in Atlanta

"Colleges have really thrown us a curveball," said Eric Apgar, director of guidance at Sandburg High School in Orland Park. "In years past, we would tell students not to veer too far from the middle, to not be too strange. ... But it seems like that's exactly what post-secondary institutions want."

It's not just content that has undergone a makeover, but the format as well. Along with the usual essay, many campuses have added short takes of 20 to 25 words, such as:

The best movie of all time—Columbia University in New York City

It's not just about appealing to the text/Twitter/YouTube generation, but about taking another opportunity to get acquainted with the applicant, said Katherine Cohen, college consultant and founder of **ivywise.com**.

"You really get a totally different feel for who that person is, especially with the short takes. It allows colleges to learn things they may not get from a transcript and a resume," she said. "That's why they're fun."

Such questions irk Barmak Nassirian of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers.

"It just reinforces that there's some secret code that needs to be cracked to gain admission," he said. "How angry would an adult be if we had to answer these kind of bizarre questions on a job application?"

Why are you mad at Pinterest, bro?

Jessica Galliart
» jgalliart@tribune.com
» @redeyechicago

I do my best to check out and usually join most social media networks—it's my job or whatever—but only when I think I can get genuine enjoyment out of them. Who doesn't love a good Twitter fight about racial inequality, after all?

Then along came Pinterest, some say the worst thing to happen to your Facebook news feed since that girl from high school started posting her sonograms. The "vision board"-esque service launched in May, and page views have skyrocketed 2,000 percent since June, according to marketing research firm comScore.

How does Pinterest work? You "pin" photos from around the Web of things you say you'll one day buy, create, have or do, even though you and I both know you'll get bored with that leftover candle wax project and quit. Then you group the "pins" into themed "pinboards" you've created, which friends can follow for "pinspiration." Think of it this way: It's online cataloging for dreamers who lust after the unattainable and for brokeasses who never intend to buy anything.

Sounds appealing, right, bros? Shockingly, Pinterest has gained a reputation for having a user base made up mostly of females and has even been coined by some as "Reddit for girls." But what if the playing field were leveled and the boyfriends of the world finally succumbed to their girlfriends' pillow talk about joining Pinterest? A few ideas for how dudes could bro out on their themed pinboards:

» **Sinboard:** Boobs, duh. I have a Ryan Gosling pinboard; guys could have a Christina Hendricks sinboard. Pinterest has a no-nudity policy, but it's all about cataloging and organizing. And what better to organize than your online spank bank?

» **Gadget pornboard:** This interest should be a lot more gender neutral than it is. I'll take photos of the newest iWhatever over damask curtains any day—but guys, be prepared to have your Pinterest flooded with tech project inspiration, like rewiring your toaster to burn "Most" onto your slices (so it's the "toast with the most").

» **Tattboard:** "Nice calf tat, bro! Is that, like, Hebrew or something?" Ink pinspiration?

» **Stupid stuntboard:** Did I mention you can "pin" videos, too? After you've made your sinboard, you could "pin" and organize all those videos you looked up online after watching "Tosh.0."

OK, so maybe these ideas are a bit stereotypical. And maybe so is the notion that all Pinterest is good for is ovarian stimulation.

Sure, there are plenty of crafty young housewives stockpiling Pinterest with their pipe cleaner dreams, but online communities can change and grow on a dime. I only recently joined after initially dismissing it—the network really did sound too girly for my taste. But there are plenty of others like me who are realizing Pinterest has plenty of potential and flexibility, even if we don't use it as a wish list for weddings and dream condos.

It'll be interesting to see when dudes decide to jump on the Pinterest bandwagon and how they will change the landscape of the service—boobie pics and gash badges or not. Until then, I'll continue to rep for both teams with my whiskerboard (guys with awesome facial hair, aka things I'd like to "do") and my apartment pornboard (mostly those damn bookshelf-walls I will never have).

JESSICA GALLIART IS REDEYE'S SOCIAL MEDIA LADY.

WHERE'S REDEYE?
Like finding CTA swag and videos of Derrick Rose's best dunks? Follow RedEye on Pinterest at **pinterest.com/redeyechicago**.

DAILY DEBATE

MICHIGAN VS. WISCONSIN
THE MITTENS ARE OFF!

Residents of Wisconsin and Michigan are battling over which state is the true Mitten State after the Wisconsin tourism website listed a mitten shaped like the state. RedEye's staff tried to settle this.

The first state with the balls to produce a one-finger mitten wins. You know which finger.
—**Brian Moore,** *@redeyesportsguy*

Wisconsin looks like a mitten—if mittens were made for people with toothpick thumbs and pancake fingers.
—**Jim Walsh,** *@jxwalsh*

Michigan should take off the glove and give Wisconsin the right hook for being so thumb ... I mean dumb.
—**Victoria Rodriguez**

Michigan. C'mon everyone, don't they deserve a hand?
—**Tracy Swartz,** *@tracyswartz*

STATUS UPDATE

The CTA holiday train is making the rounds of Chicago, and we've got pictures! Go to **redeyechicago.com/holidaytrain** to check out our gallery and upload your own holiday train snaps.

TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/TRIBUNE PHOTOS

WHERE'S REDEYE?

Is your favorite RedEye box empty? Don't get mad—get on your phone. Use the hashtag #wheresredeye and post a pic of the empty box and its location on Twitter or Instagram. Our team is watching—because nobody should be deprived of a daily RedEye.

CORRECTION
Former Gov. Rod Blagojevich was sentenced to 5,114 days in prison Wednesday. A headline on Thursday's cover failed to include leap year days in his 14-year sentence.

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chicago

FRIDAY 27/17 Chillies

SATURDAY 28/23 Willies

SUNDAY 44/30 Hop back up

University of Chicago scientists Peggy Mason (from left), Inbal Ben-Ami Bartal and Jean Decety hold toy rats. ZBIGNIEW BZDAK/TRIBUNE

You friendly rat!

University of Chicago study finds rodents out to help their whiskered bros

Chicago Tribune

As charges of greed, self-indulgence and self-interest fly in these hyper-partisan political times, humans might do well to look to rats for lessons in kindness and caring.

A University of Chicago experiment to determine how much empathy rats have for each other had some surprising results, which were published Thursday in the research journal Science.

In laboratory studies, a rat was restrained in a small cage that could be opened only from the outside. A second rat, seeing the dilemma of the trapped rat, immediately began tirelessly trying to find a way to free his fellow rat.

Eventually, the second rat taught itself to open the cage door, freeing the restrained rat, leading to what strongly resembled a triumphal celebration between the two. Even when faced with an alternative choice of chocolate chips, the rat would not be deterred from helping its fellow rat.

As simple as it sounds, the experiment is being hailed as a new paradigm that will help scientists trace the development of emotion in mammals back through the evolutionary tree.

Previously, scientists thought that empathy and pro-social behavior to help others were unique to humans, said Jeffry Mogil, a pain research at McGill University in Canada who has done similar studies on mice.

"This study shows the roots of human empathy didn't just appear, but evolved," said Mogil, who was not connected with the University of Chicago study. "It is very impressive, showing really robust and conclusive evidence that rats show pro-social [helping] behavior. You can argue why the rats are doing it, but you can't argue anymore that the rats are [not] doing it."

The experiment is the work of U. of C. doctoral student Inbal Ben-Ami Bartal, her adviser, Jean Decety, a professor of psychology and psychiatry who studies human empathy, and Peggy Mason, a professor of neurobiology who studies pain modulation and relief.

Decety said it has been proved in past studies that rats also experience a primitive form of empathy called emotional contagion—the sort of thing where if one baby in a group of babies begins to cry, they all break out in tears.

3 FOR ALL

PENSION POLITICS

Ex-Gov. Rod Blagojevich should be denied his pension because the corruption that is sending him to prison is clearly tied to his position in state government, the Illinois attorney general advised Thursday. The opinion was sent to the General Assembly Retirement System, which will decide whether to deny Blagojevich a pension. Here's a look at the numbers. TRIBUNE

$65,000

Amount of Blagojevich pension under scrutiny

14

Years Blagojevich was sentenced to Wednesday

$15,000

Yearly pension Blagojevich is likely to keep from his time as a congressman

EXPRESS LINES

» Sara Lee announced Thursday that it's moving some 500 jobs to downtown Chicago for its new headquarters, about half the employees that the Downers Grove-based food company had in January.

» Small street-crossing flags were placed in plastic holders Thursday at crosswalks at 10 Chicago intersections near schools, senior citizen centers and hospitals as part of a new safety campaign aimed at drivers called "It's Up to You."

» Shares of Chicago-based Groupon perked up on a down day for stocks after LivingSocial disclosed it's raising another $400 million in private funding, meaning Groupon's key rival may not pursue its own IPO anytime soon. TRIBUNE, DOW JONES

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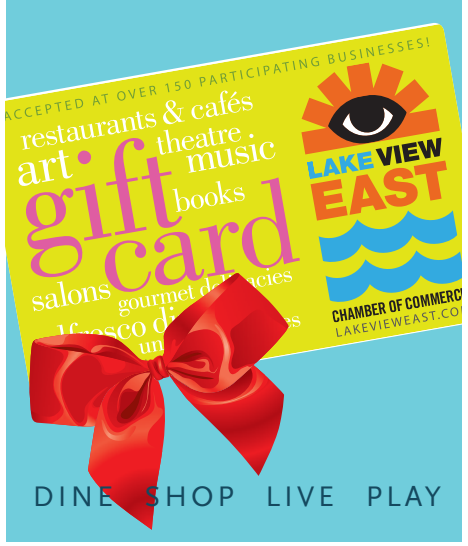

DINE SHOP LIVE PLAY

Crystal McCahill
REDEYE FILE

Sweet home Chicago

Miss May 2009 is happy to be back in the Windy City

By Leonor Vivanco
REDEYE

Playboy Playmate Crystal McCahill is back. Back home in Chicago.

After three years, Miss May 2009 recently moved out of the Playboy Bunny House across the street from the mansion in California.

"It's been amazing, but Chicago is where my heart is," she said.

She said she did get a little homesick and now lives in the Loop. "I probably moved in the wrong time of the year. But I'm a Chicagoan, I can handle it," she said.

McCahill hosted an invite-only event Thursday night with three other playmates at new Chicago bar The Ogden. She stopped by to catch up with RedEye.

McCahill, 27, has been sketching designs for her own swimwear line called Hunny Bunny, which she hopes to launch in the spring. She said she'll be strutting around in a white bikini on Michigan Avenue on Dec. 15 for PETA's anti-fur campaign.

How did the partnership come up with PETA?
I tweet them a lot and so they ended up tweeting me back to see if I'd like to get involved, and of course I said yes. They're the ones that made me vegetarian [for five years]. I do eat fish so I kind of cheat, but I feel bad.

How do you feel about wearing a bikini in the winter?
I'm nervous. I was walking down the street and I was fully bundled up and I was still dying at how bitter cold it was. So I'm nervous, but it's for a good cause so I'm going to keep that in mind and stick with it.

Next month's Playboy issue features Lindsay Lohan. Are there any other celebrities that you think would be good to pose for Playboy?
It would be Angelina Jolie.

Any holiday plans?
Well, my birthday is a week before Christmas so, I'm getting a party bus and taking everyone to Medieval Times.

HOT DATE

1/21

That's when the Lifetime original movie "Drew Peterson: Untouchable," starring Rob Lowe (right), is scheduled to air. Peterson, a former police sergeant in the Chicago suburbs, is charged in the drowning death of his third wife, Kathleen Savio. His fourth wife, Stacy, disappeared in 2007. He has not been charged in Stacy's disappearance. REDEYE

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Don't miss this season's traditional animated classic based on the timeless true story that inspired a whole new spirit of believing! *Yes, Virginia* will air on CBS-TV, Friday, December 9. Check your local listings.

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the early show

Tune into the CBS Early Show at 7am for letter count updates to Santa throughout the holidays.

m BLOG

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THE WEEK IN CHICAGO NEIGHBORHOODS, BRIEFLY.

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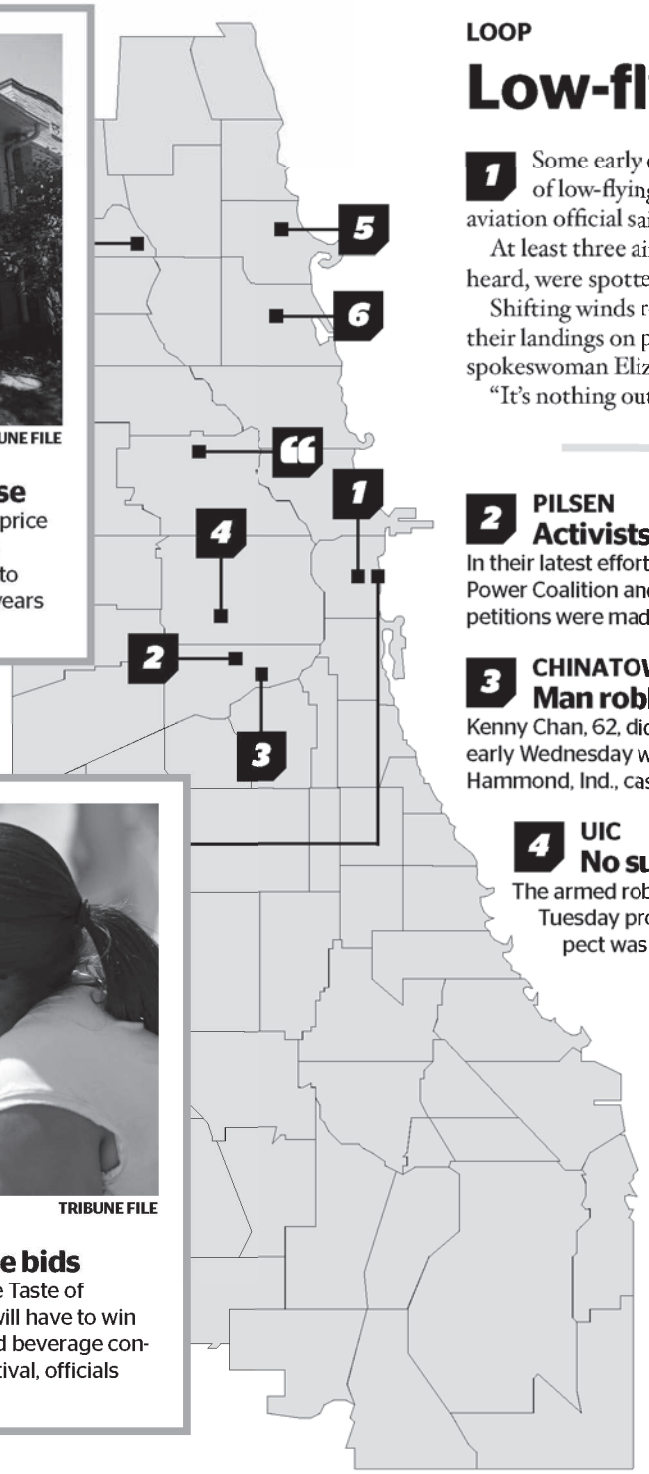
TRIBUNE FILE

7 RAVENSWOOD MANOR
Price slashed on Blago's house
Former Gov. Rod Blagojevich has cut the asking price of his 13-room, Mediterranean-style house in the Ravenswood Manor neighborhood by $72,000, to $998,000. He was sentenced Wednesday to 14 years on federal corruption charges.



TRIBUNE FILE

8 LOOP
Group to compete for Taste bids
Nearly three decades after helping revive the Taste of Chicago, the Illinois Restaurant Association will have to win a bidding contest to keep managing food and beverage concessions for the city's signature lakefront festival, officials said this week.

LOOP
Low-flying planes not a threat

1 Some early commuters and Loop-area residents were startled by the sight and sound of low-flying commercial aircraft along the lake shore Thursday morning, but a federal aviation official said it was nothing unusual.

At least three airplanes, flying low enough so that the whine of their engines could be easily heard, were spotted about 7 a.m., flying north.

Shifting winds required several commercial airliners to descend to 4,000 feet to facilitate their landings on particular runways at O'Hare, according to Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman Elizabeth Isham Cory.

"It's nothing out of the ordinary," she said. **TRIBUNE**

2 PILSEN
Activists send Emanuel photo petition
In their latest effort in their campaign to shut down the coal plants in Pilsen, the Chicago Clean Power Coalition and about 100 supporters delivered petitions to Mayor Emanuel last week. The petitions were made up of more than 800 photographs of residents.

3 CHINATOWN
Man robbed after winning $10K
Kenny Chan, 62, did not have much time to figure out what he would do with the 10 grand he won early Wednesday while playing baccarat. Chan was on his way to his Chinatown apartment from a Hammond, Ind., casino about 2:15 a.m. Wednesday when two men—one with a gun—robbed him.

4 UIC
No suspects in barricade situation
The armed robbery of a pizza deliveryman near the University of Illinois at Chicago campus Tuesday prompted a SWAT team response to a potential barricade situation, but no suspect was found. Police responded to the area near West 14th and South Morgan streets.

5 UPTOWN
3 guns recovered after standoff
At least three guns—including a rifle with a scope—and a bulletproof vest were found after a nearly six-hour standoff that shut down part of the Red Line, officials said. The standoff began Monday night, and suspects surrendered without incident just before 10 p.m., officials said.

6 WRIGLEYVILLE
Tea Party hits Chicago
The monthly meeting of the Chicago Tea Party hit Wrigleyville this week. Rep. Joe Walsh of McHenry was scheduled as the keynote speaker for the event, which was held at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Cubby Bear, according to the Chicago Tea Party website.

"And what's so amazing about the holiday train, you ask? It's an awesome, light-covered train that smells like peppermint and cinnamon, with CTA employees dressed as elves handing out candy canes. Oh yeah, and Santa and his sleigh are aboard. How can you not love it?" **—Daniela Garcia,** Wicker Park blogger

WANT MORE? Want to hear more from Daniela? Find more of her neighborhood musings at **redeyechicago.com/hoods**.

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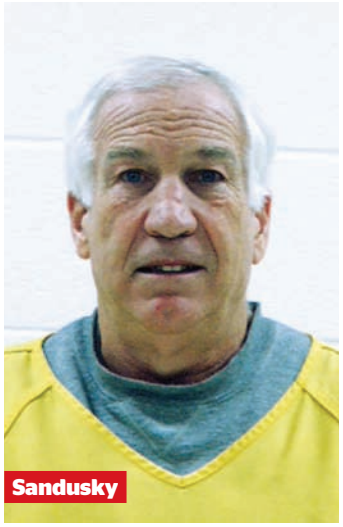


GETTY IMAGES

Accusations untrue, coach's wife says

1 Former Penn State football coach Jerry Sandusky's wife, Dottie, told CNN that she is angry about accusations of child sexual abuse occurring in her home, calling them "absolutely untrue."

"No child who ever visited our home was ever forced to stay in our basement and fed there," she said. "We would never do anything to hurt them."

Her husband faces more than 50 charges surrounding a child sex abuse scandal that allegedly spanned more than 15 years.

Age restrictions remain for Plan B pills

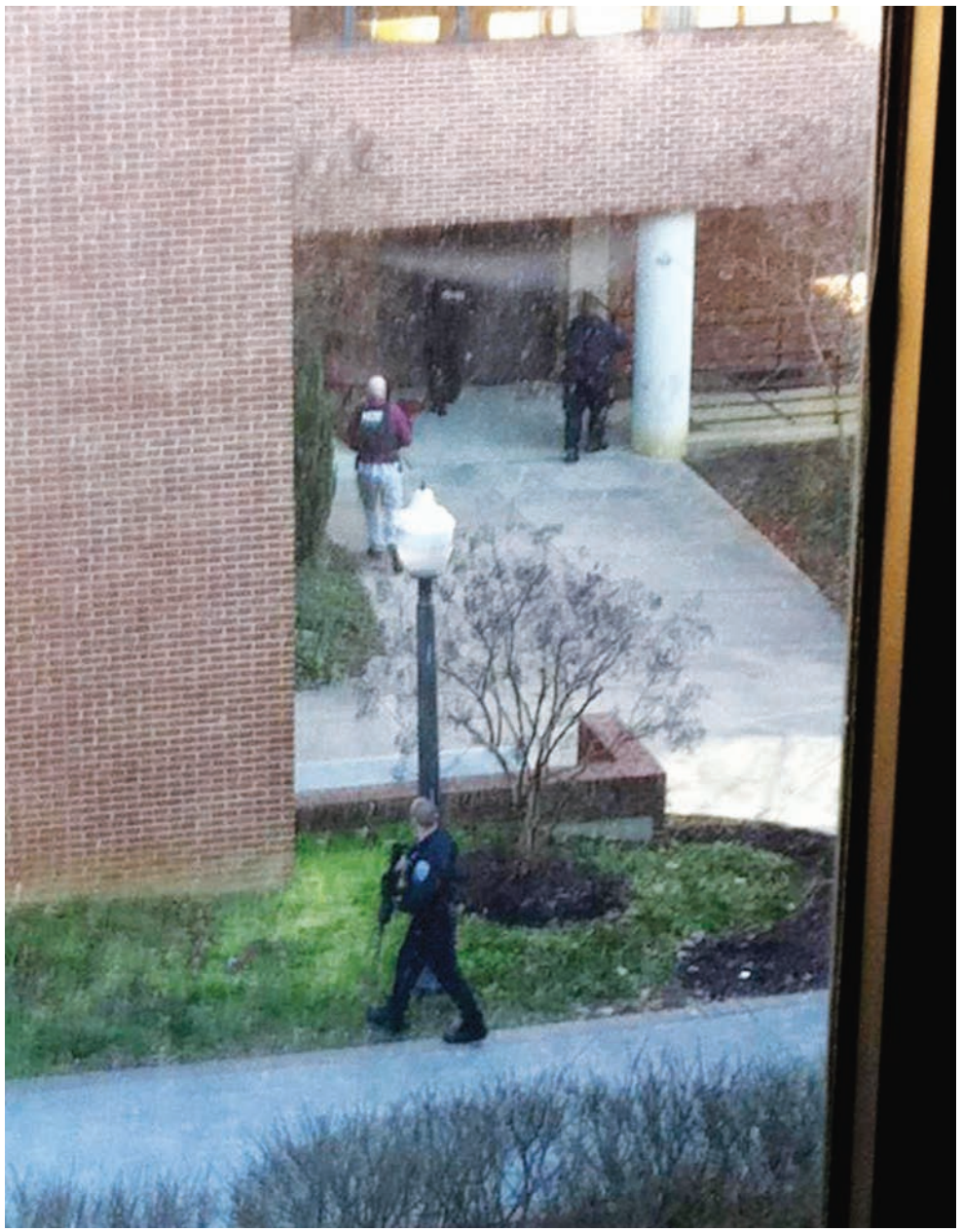
2 President Obama endorsed his administration's decision to keep in place age restrictions on the purchase of Plan B, the so-called "morning after pill," without a prescription. "I did not get involved in the process," Obama said when asked if he personally intervened in the matter. The current restrictions on Plan B will stand: Women 17 years and older may purchase the pill without a prescription; those 16 and younger need a prescription.

New, improved Twitter

3 When co-founder Jack Dorsey returned to Twitter this year, he announced that his top priority was to improve the service's user experience. On Thursday, Twitter unveiled the first fruit of that labor: A major redesign aimed at making Twitter faster, simpler and more intuitive for casual users.

2 dead in Va. Tech shooting

Tragedy returns to the university where 32 were slain in 2007 killing spree



Armed police officers search the Virginia Tech campus for a gunman Thursday after an officer was shot and killed. A second body—believed to be the shooter—later was found in a parking lot. REUTERS

4 **BLACKSBURG, Va.** A gunman ambushed and killed a campus police officer and later was reported to have been found dead Thursday at Virginia Tech University, the site of one of the worst shooting rampages in U.S. history.

Authorities declared the campus safe and lifted a lockdown after a nearly four-hour manhunt, seeming to lend credence to TV news reports that a body found in a Virginia Tech parking lot was that of the shooter.

Police at a televised news conference declined to say whether they suspected a murder-suicide and offered no motive for the crime, citing an ongoing investigation.

"Today tragedy again struck Virginia Tech with a wanton act of violence where a police officer was murdered during a routine traffic stop," Virginia Tech president Charles Steger told reporters. "Words don't describe our feelings."

The place where the officer was shot is in a parking lot in the shadows of the Virginia Tech football stadium. Small groups of students stood nearby as police removed yellow tape from around the crime scene Thursday evening.

One student, sophomore Fuller Hoepner, 19, said he stayed inside his apartment after he saw the school's emergency message this afternoon: "shots fired."

"We did not move. We watched the news all day," he said.

The incident evoked grim memories of April 2007 when a mentally deranged student killed 32 people and wounded 25 before committing suicide on the school's rural campus in the Shenandoah Valley about 250 miles from Washington.

It was the deadliest attack by a single gunman in U.S. history.

In Thursday's incident, the gunman walked up and shot dead a four-year veteran of the campus police force during a routine traffic stop, police said.

The man then fled on foot toward a nearby parking lot, and a body later was found there along with a gun, police said.

THE DIGIT

$7,800 Household wealth took its biggest hit since the height of the 2008 financial meltdown during the third quarter, weakened by a downturn in stocks, according to a report issued Thursday. The Federal Reserve said the net worth of households fell by 4.1 percent, or about $7,800 for every U.S. resident.

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FOUR SCORE

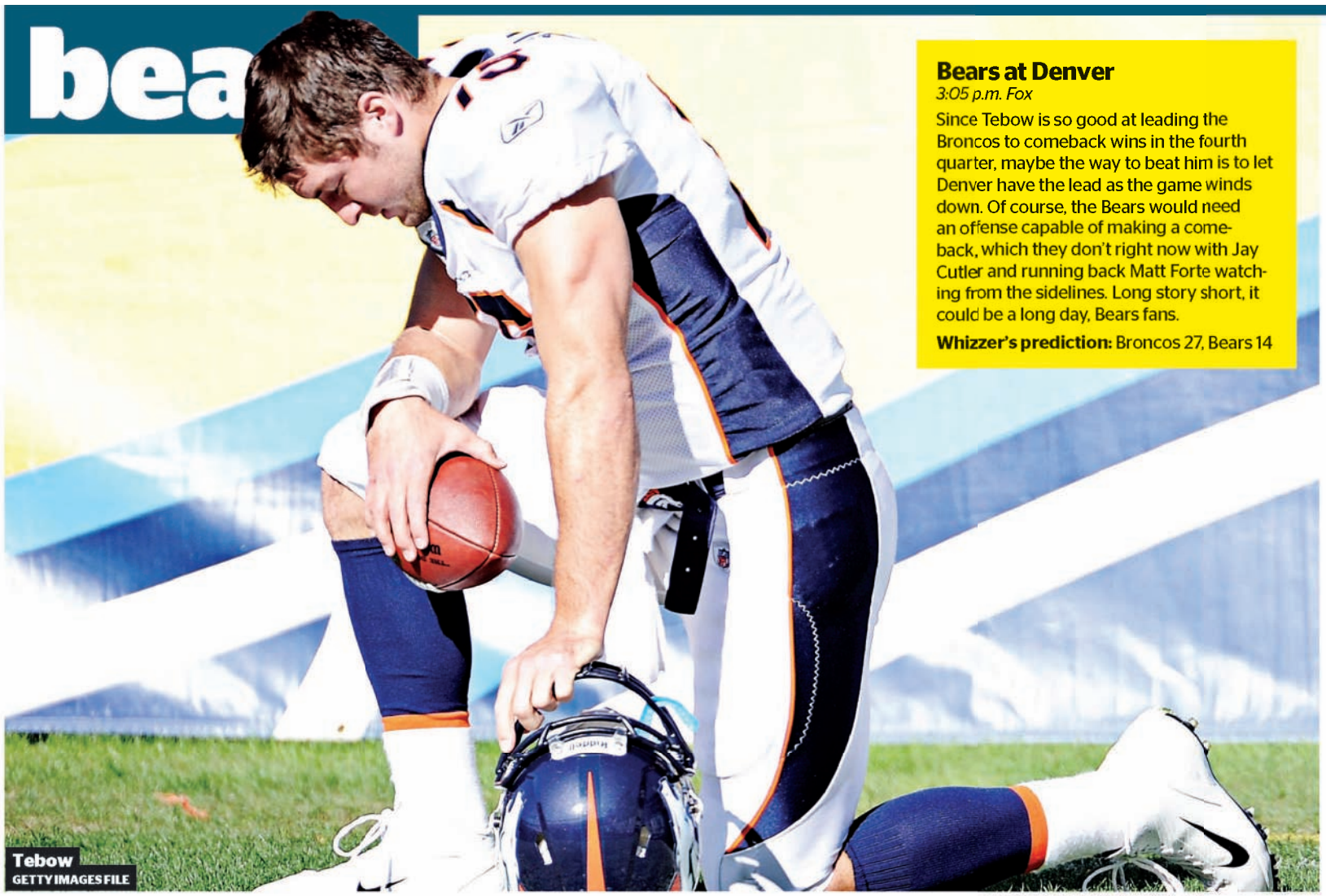
BEARS AT DENVER
Each week before the Bears game, RedEye's sports crew gets to the point. Here's what they see happening at Denver.

DENVER 21, BEARS 10
I'm not gonna make a Tim Tebow joke. I'm not gonna make a Tim Tebow joke. Phew, my prayers were answered.
Brian Moore, @redeyesportsguy

BEARS 18, DENVER 17
Caleb, do just enough so Robbie Gould can kick six field goals, OK?
Chris Sosa, @sayitissosa

BEARS 12, DENVER 10
I can't support anything Tim Tebow-related. PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME LOOK LIKE A DOUCHE, YOU GUYS.
Ernest Wilkins, @remixchicago

DENVER 20, BEARS 0
No one else can figure out this Tebow thing. I doubt we can.
Bag Boy



Tebow
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Bears at Denver
3:05 p.m. Fox
Since Tebow is so good at leading the Broncos to comeback wins in the fourth quarter, maybe the way to beat him is to let Denver have the lead as the game winds down. Of course, the Bears would need an offense capable of making a comeback, which they don't right now with Jay Cutler and running back Matt Forte watching from the sidelines. Long story short, it could be a long day, Bears fans.
Whizzer's prediction: Broncos 27, Bears 14

MILE-HIGH MISSION

CAN THE BEARS KEEP THE BRONCOS FROM SHOOTING DOWN THEIR PLAYOFF HOPES?

By Whizzer | REDEYE

I can empathize with Tim Tebow.

It's hard to be so good at your craft and get nothing but hate from all sides. (At least, I think that's why I get hate mail.)

If he were playing for the Bears in place of the injured Jay Cutler and winning games, Chicago would line up to buy the guy a drink or two. Wait, does Tebow drink? Or is that a sin?

Unfortunately for the Bears, Tebow is not suiting up in their blue and orange. And that, my friends, is a problem.

Tebow is on a miraculous run as the Broncos' quarterback. He is 6-1 as a starter with 11 touchdowns and only two turnovers. He does most of his damage in the fourth quarter, having engineered three straight fourth-quarter comebacks for victories.

Can he do it again against the Bears?

Here now, my picks.

THE STARTING LINE » Cubs trade Tyler Colvin and D.J. LeMahieu to Colorado for third baseman Ian Stewart and pitcher Casey Weathers.

Manning
GETTY IMAGES FILE

N.Y. Giants at Dallas

7:20 p.m. NBC

You might need a calculator for this game, which looks to be a high-scoring shootout. Giants QB Eli Manning is having a stellar year and the Cowboys' Tony Romo also is playing well. First place in the NFC East is on the line, so both teams will be "all in," like I am at feeding time.

Whizzer's prediction: Cowboys 42, Giants 38

Atlanta at Carolina

noon

This will just about destroy the Bears' playoff chances. The Falcons are one of the teams vying for the wild-card spot the Bears currently hold. If the Bears lose like my crystal ball says they will and the Falcons win, which they will, the Bears are on the outside looking in. Not even phenomenal rookie quarterback Cam Newton can save the Panthers.

Whizzer's prediction: Falcons 30, Panthers 19

Minnesota at Detroit

noon

Adrian Peterson looks like he'll be back on the field for the Vikings. If so, he'll run wild under the temperate skies of the domed Ford Field. The bad part about that is, Peterson is all the Vikings have with quarterback Christian Ponder hurting. The Lions, with a resurgent Kevin Smith, will win and put another nail in the Bears' playoff coffin.

Whizzer's prediction: Lions 34, Vikings 27

THE REST

Here now, the rest of my picks. Lightning-round style.

- » Baltimore 24, Indianapolis 13
- » Houston 27, Cincinnati 20
- » Tampa Bay 21, Jacksonville 14
- » Philadelphia 30, Miami 21
- » N.Y. Jets 28, Kansas City 23
- » New Orleans 37, Tennessee 17
- » New England 31, Washington 27
- » San Francisco 34, Arizona 19
- » Green Bay 40, Oakland 24
- » San Diego 26, Buffalo 12
- » Seattle 21, St. Louis 7

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YOUR TURN

Think you can do a better job of predicting the results of an NFL game than Whizzer? Pick a game, any game, and text the result to **87708** with the keyword "**whizzer**." Include you name so he can give you a shoutout in Monday's RedEye.

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Peterson
GETTY IMAGES

» Deal sending New Orleans point guard Chris Paul to the L.A. Lakers for Lamar Odom, Pau Gasol rejected.

It's all over but the crying

SACKED AGAIN

Bag Boy

» redeyesports@tribune.com

Merry Christmas, Bears fans. It's over.

For you Jay Cutler haters out there, now you know. He's the best we got, and we're nothing without him. Sorry D, it's true.

Of course, this highlights another weakness: Jerry Angelo's stunning inability to evaluate offensive talent. Thanks for Caleb Hanie, Jerry. Reminds me of the year you stuck us with Jonathan Quinn and Craig Krenzel.

No one scours the Earth harder to find more duds at quarterback than this guy. Jerry, humor me. Donovan McNabb. It can't be worse than Hanie.

Though it is Chicago. Hmm.

Matt Forte, don't hurry back. Cutler, same to you. Your future ex-wife needs you healthy for wedding planning stuff. After that, they don't really need you. Weird.

I'm glad it ended early. I would have hated to see it drag on and interfere with that other monument of a broken institution, the BCS. It needs to be said. There has never been a bigger crock of you know what. Sure, it's all about wins and losses. Unless, of course, there is a more popular team that makes more money. So sit down, Michigan State and Boise State. We've got prettier, more popular girls to ask to this dance.

Greed. Pure and simple. That's all it is.

Good time of year for it, though, with the holidays and all. Enjoy.

It's also a good time of year for baseball talks. Hey, the White Sox are "rebuilding." Though I don't remember the last time they were built.

"Rebuilding" is code for "please bear with us while we muck this up the next five years."

Mark Buehrle to the Marlins. With Ozzie. What else can we give to those cocoa butter doofi!*

For Cubs fans, congrats on Ron Santo getting into the Hall of Fame. He deserved it and was as beloved as anyone.

As for the team, I'm hearing noises about the big boys, but they sound like fake "Hey, we tried!" Cubs offers and not real ones.

No special gifts this year, Cubs fans. Santo getting in will have to do.

*Not an actual word. Funny if it were though.

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HEAVENLY

Which of these panelists do you worship? Vote for your fave by texting "**fri**" followed by the number next to your choice to **87708**.

	Jimmy Greenfield *@jcgreenx* **ChicagoNow community manager** **TEXT: 1**	**Tracy Swartz** *@tracyswartz* **RedEye reporter** **TEXT: 2**	**Phil Thompson** *@illyphilly* **Mash czar** **TEXT: 3**	**Alex Quigley** *@alexquigley* **ChicagoNow radio host** **TEXT: 4**	**Bag Boy** *redeyesports @tribune.com* **Brown-bagged and furious** **TEXT: 5**
1 What miracles will Tim Tebow pull off against the Bears?	He'll miraculously make me not sick and tired of hearing about his so-called miracles.	He'll turn everything to whine.	And lo, the disciple Timothy did lift the city a Mile High. Yea, Bearily.	He'll somehow feed 76,125 people with five brats and two nacho platters.	Completing a forward pass.
2 What's it mean if the Bears lose again Sunday?	Nothing, they're already finished.	The Bears will have to wipe Hanie from the roster.	That they need an intervention. Divine intervention.	God hates the Chicago Bears.	It's over—and was over the second Cutler went down.
3 Mark Buehrle is to the Florida Marlins as ...	... oil is to an engine. Necessary, and not something you can replace with a cheap knockoff.	... Albert Pujols is to the Angels. Everyone likes to catch raise.	... frequent flier miles are to Rod Blagojevich. Too soon?	... a magic money tree is to Marlins ownership, apparently.	... sports are to religion.
4 Coach Q doesn't call the Blackhawks goalie situation a controversy. Do you?	Yes, only because they've got two bad options right now.	Crawford should step aside for a few games. It's just good netiquette.	The only controversy is why isn't Coach Q's bristly mustache between the pipes?	If they played both at the same time, no puck would EVER get through!	No controversy. We just can't afford to wait for Crawford to straighten it out.
5 What might happen when the UFC is in Chicago in January?	Lance Briggs will be free to participate.	I hope no one gets robbed of the title.	They might lose a few fighters on the train ride to the UC.	Tapout shirts and tube tops for everyone!	There's a Chicago cop on the undercard. Finally an appropriate outlet for these guys.

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#P1041, Auto, AC, PL, PW, PM, Tilt, Cruise, CD, Low Miles
$13,999-$319/mo for 60mos!*

2010 Dodge Charger SXT
#P1028 V6, Auto, A/C, PL, PW, PM, Tilt, Cruise, CD, Alloys, Wow
$14,300-$328/mo for 60 mos!*

2007 Dodge Charger R/T
#P1121, Hemi, V8, Auto, Lthr, P-Roof, Alloys, Must See
$14,994-$259/mo for 72mos!*

2008 Chrysler Town & Country Limited
Limited, V6, Auto, Power Sliding Doors, Power Lift Gate, Alloys, Low Miles
$14,999-$259/mo for 72mos!*

2007 Chevy Silverado 1500 LT
#P1059 4 Door, V8, Auto, A/C, PL, PW, PM, Spray-On Bedliner, Mint
$15,850-$340/mo for 60 mos!*

2008 Suzuki XL-7 Limited AWD
#P1100 V6, Auto, Graphite, Leather, 3rd Row Seats, Power Roof, Chrome Wheels, Navi
$15,995-$343/mo for 60 mos!*

2010 Ford Escape Ltd.
#P1046, Lthr, Moonroof, Navi, Auto, AC, 4 Cyl, Like Brand New
$16,999-$299/mo for 72mos!*

2008 Mitsubishi Outlander
#P1028A, AWD, 40K Miles, Silver, Sunroof, Chrome
$17,888-$290/mo for 72 mos!*

2009 Kia Borrego LX
#P1054, V6, Lthr, Alloys, Auto, AC, P-Roof, All the Toys
$17,999-$290/mo for 72mos!*

2008 Honda Odyssey EX-L
#P1060 Graphite, Leather, Power Moonroof, Low Miles, Loaded
$20,900-$381/mo for 72mos!*

2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo
#P1101 AWD, 4x4, V6, Auto, A/C, PL, PW, Smart Key, Deep Blue Metallic
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2009 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT
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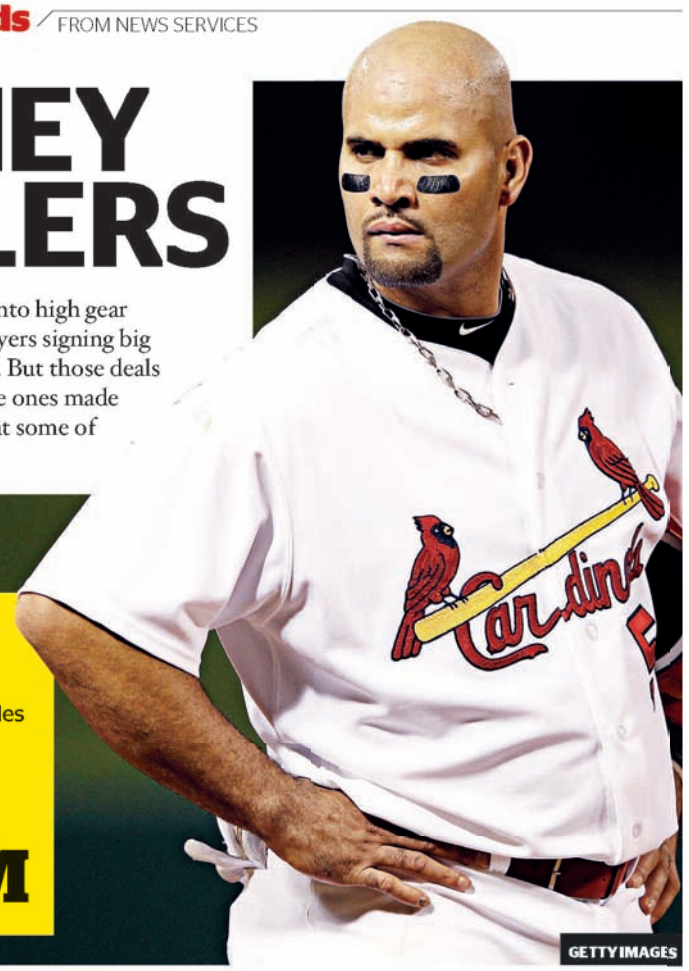
studs&duds / FROM NEWS SERVICES

MONEY BALLERS

NBA free agency kicked into high gear Thursday, with several players signing big contracts with new teams. But those deals paled in comparison to the ones made in baseball. Here's a look at some of the high rollers. REDEYE



GETTY IMAGES

Albert Pujols
Old team: St. Louis Cardinals
New team: Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim
DEAL
10 years $254M

C.J. Wilson
Old team: Texas Rangers
New team: Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim
DEAL
5 years $77.5 M

Tayshaun Prince
Old team: Detroit Pistons
New team: Detroit Pistons
DEAL
4 years $27M

Caron Butler
Old team:: Dallas Mavericks
New team: Los Angeles Clippers
DEAL
3 years $24M

DEC 9

BULLS ADVENT CALENDAR

The countdown has begun, Bulls fans. Today is Dec. 9; the Bulls open their season Dec. 25, so what better way to count down than with a Christmas-style Bulls advent calendar? Today's Day 9 gift: a nail. For Omer "The Turkish Hammer" Asik to crush, of course. See the video version of our advent calendar at **redeyesportsguy.tumblr.com**.

THE FINISH LINE

» Blackhawks 3, N.Y. Islanders 2 » Notre Dame 87, Maine 78 » NFL: Pittsburgh 14, Cleveland 3

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New 2012 Ford **Escape**
Stk# 47505

Lease For $199 per month*

*27 month lease based on $2250 due at lease inception plus 1st mos payment, tax, title, lic & doc fee to qualified buyers. No sec deposit req'd. Charge at lease end for excess wear or mileage. See dealer for details. Expires 12/09/11.

New 2012 Ford
Taurus SEL
Stk #11765

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*27 month lease based on $2250 due at lease inception plus 1st mos payment, tax, title, lic & doc fee to qualified buyers. No sec deposit req'd. Charge at lease end for excess wear or mileage. See dealer for details. Expires 12/09/11.

New 2011 Ford
F-150
Platinum Super Crew 4x4.
Stk#47689. **MSRP:$51,300**

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New 2012 Ford
Explorer
Stk#47621

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1989 Ford F150 #11637A V8, Auto, Red!	$3,977
1999 Ford Explorer Eddie Baurer #47647A, V6, 4x4, Blk, Lthr, Roof	$4,977
2006 Chevrolet Aveo #11718A, Auto, AC, CD, Pwr	$4,977
2003 Buick LeSabre #P15853A, V6, Gray, Power Windows & Locks, CD	$5,577
2005 Chevrolet Impala LS #47704A, Blue, V6, Pwr, Roof	$5,977
2003 Buick Rendevous #47697A, Lthr, Roof, V6, Black	$6,977
2003 Oldsmobile Alero #P16029, Red, 2 Dr, CD, Low Miles	$7,477
2005 Toyota Tacoma #11717B, Auto, Silver, Clean, Ready	$7,577
2005 Nissan Sentra #47605A, Low Miles, Blk, Loaded	$8,977
2008 Dodge Caliber #47600A, Silver, CD, Loaded, Clean	$9,877
2006 Ford Focus ZX5 #P16206, Gray, CD, Very Nice, Auto	$10,977
2004 BMW 325ci #11736A, Blue, Auto, Lthr, Roof, Low Miles	$10,977
2007 Mazda 3 #XP16113, Roof, CD, Auto	$11,577
2008 Ford Escape XLT #47648A, Moonroof, 4Cyl., Auto	$11,977
2006 Ford Fusion #46934A, Loaded, Silver, Remote Start	$11,977
2004 Chevrolet HD Pick Up #47726A, 2500, Cap, Liner, White, V8, Auto	$11,977
2008 Ford Escape XLT #47420A, 4x4, Gray, Auto, Pwr	$11,977
2007 Dodge Charger #11567A, V6, CD, Alloys, Gray	$12,577
2010 Dodge Avenger #11651A, Blue, Auto, CD, Pwr	$12,677
2008 Pontiac G6 #P15801A, Silver, V6, 4 Dr	$12,777
2009 Ford Fusion #11711A, 4 Cyl, Tan, Pwr, MP3	$12,977
2007 Chevrolet Impala #P16226, V6, Gray, PW, CD	$12,977
2010 Chevy Cobalt LT #MP15865, Silver, Auto, AC	$12,977
2010 Hyundai Accent GLS #XP15887, Blue, CD, Pwr, 4 Cyl, Auto	$13,577
2010 Nissan Versa #SP16008, Silver, Loaded, Nice	$13,977
2007 Dodge Charger #P15936, Black, Alloys, V6	$14,977
2003 Mercedes-Benz C240 #P15990, 4matic, Blue	$14,977
2005 Ford Ranger S/Cab #P16245, 4x4, Edge Pkg, Blue, Remote Start	$14,977
2007 Toyota RAV 4 #47451A, Silver, 4x4, Roof, Auto	$15,477
2007 Dodge Magnum #MP15937, White, V6, Nice	$15,777
2008 Chevrolet Impala LTZ #XP16426, Silver, Roof, Lthr, V6, Loaded	$15,977
2011 Ford E250 Cargo #XP16082, V8, PW, PL, AC, White	$16,977
2011 Chevrolet G2500 Express #XP16187, Cargo, V8, White	$16,977
2010 Ford Transit Connect #47208A, Racks, Power, White	$16,977
2007 Ford Mustang GT Convertible #11478A, Blue, Auto, Leather, Nice	$17,977
2010 Dodge Avenger RT #XP15816, Auto, AC, Leather	$17,977
2010 Dodge Charger #XP16101, Auto, Sunroof, CD	$17,977
2010 Ford Taurus SE #XP16098, Auto, A/C, Pwr Pkg	$17,977
2008 Jeep Liberty MT #11710A, Red, Lthr, 4x4, Low Miles	$18,977
2008 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited #47659B, "X"-Auto, Both Tops, 6 Cyl, Must See	$20,977
2010 Ford Escape Ltd #P15974, Silver, Lthr, 4x4, V6	$20,977
2009 Ford Flex SEL #47714A, Roof, Lthr, Blk, Low Miles	$22,977
2009 Ford Mustang GT #11237-A, 5 Speed, A/C	$22,977
2011 Ford Taurus Ltd #P16065, Blk, Lthr, Loaded	$23,777
2011 Ford F-150 Super Cab #47691A, 4x4, Silver, 8K Miles	$25,977
2006 Land Rover Range Rover #P15753A, Supercharged!	$34,977
2010 Ford F150 Platinum #47763A, Navi, Silver, Crew, Loaded	$36,977
2011 Chevy Corvette #11224A, Gray, Only 3K Miles!	$42,977

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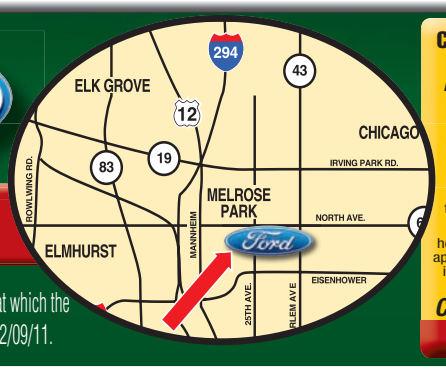

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dining
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FYI
Streeterville restaurant Quay got the Food Network treatment when it was featured on new docu-series "Chef Hunter" on Thursday.

THAT'S HOT!

RedEye

Warm apple cider is nice and hot toddies are classic, but for a truly chilly day, it's steaming hot chocolate that's got your back. We surveyed the season's options and zeroed in on six standouts for a taste test, from cocoa offerings at Forever Yogurt's new hot chocolate bar, Froth, to a cocoa-tinged cocktail at Sable that brings its heat with tequila. We then rated the drinks' chocolate-iness on a scale of 1 (a hint of chocolate) to 5 (cuckoo for cocoa). LENNY GILMORE PHOTOS/REDEYE

BOOZY

Sable Kitchen & Bar *505 N. State St. 312-755-9704*

The drink: This River North favorite in the Hotel Palomar boasts an impressive cocktail list, but isn't the kind of place to go for over-the-top, holiday-themed drinks. Instead, the Second Wind offers just a tiny hint of cocoa mixed with agave, lemon and tequila, all shaken with ice before hitting your glass.
Price: $13
Tasting notes: You'll taste a bit of the cocoa, but the more powerful flavor in the drink is lemon. The cocktail is a light, smooth, refreshing mix, but definitely not what you'll want to order if you're craving chocolate. —EMILY VAN ZANDT

COCOA FACTOR

Morso *340 W. Armitage Ave. 773-880-9280*

The drink: Take rich, housemade hot chocolate, add armagnac (a French brandy) and bitters, top it with a hazelnut-studded marshmallow disc, and you have Morso's Snowdrift cocktail—a comfortingly familiar taste of childhood (if your mom made cocoa from scratch) with a very adult twist. Did I mention it's lovely to look at as well?
Price: $13
Tasting notes: The addition of bitters balances out the sweetness of the drink, and the armagnac goes perfectly with the chocolate, adding a nice slow burn that stays with you between sips. Chocoholics, proceed with caution: This is dangerously addictive stuff. —TRAN HA

COCOA FACTOR

Mercadito *108 W. Kinzie St. 312-329-9555*

The drink: This schmancy downtown taqueria featured its own spin on Mexican hot chocolate, called Chocomole, for Valentine's Day and has brought it back for the winter. A creamy blend of chocolate, peanut butter and spices is served chilled with a generous dose of reposado tequila to warm you from the inside out.
Price: $10 in cocktail form; $5 prepared as a shot
Tasting notes: I wasn't sure tequila would play nice with the Reese's peanut butter cup-sounding flavors, but it's surprisingly smooth and the spices were subtle. Served as a cocktail, it got a little grainy toward the bottom of the glass, so I think I'd opt for the shot version next time. —LISA ARNETT

COCOA FACTOR

MORE FAVORITES » Bean-to-cup hot chocolate at Xoco in River North » Any hot chocolate at Hot Chocolate in Bucktown » La Parisienne at Vosges Haut Chocolat in Lincoln Park » Cinnamon

MERCADITO HANDOUT

NON-BOOZY

Miko's Flipside Cafe

1846 N. Damen Ave.
773-645-9664

The drink: William von Hartz, who heads up this pop-up cafe in residence at Miko's Italian Ice in Bucktown through April, prefers to use French Valrhona chocolate in his lone hot chocolate offering. "It's a more complicated chocolate," he said. "It has overtones of wine to it."
Price: $4
Tasting notes: Perhaps my palate's uncomplicated; presented without any additional toppings or flavoring, this dark chocolate drink was too bitter and bland for my liking. As my wife put it, "It's nothing special. It just is." —MATT PAIS

COCOA FACTOR

Citygrounds

507 W. Dickens Ave. 773-857-1576

The drink: This Lincoln Park coffee shop's house hot chocolate is made with dark chocolate and topped off with your choice of whipped cream or a toasted marshmallow (we say go for the latter).
Price: $3.50 for a 12-ounce cup, $4 for a 16-ounce cup.
Tasting notes: This warm-but-not-too-hot drink had the right balance of chocolate and milk; it's sweet but not overwhelming. Though it was frothy on top, it felt a bit gritty toward the bottom, where some of the chocolatey goodness had settled. Full-size campfire marshmallows floating on top were blistered to a toasty finish by a barista with a blow torch. —LEONOR VIVANCO

COCOA FACTOR

Froth Hot Chocolate Bar at Forever Yogurt

42 E. Chicago Ave. 312-235-6689; 1924 W. North Ave. 773-772-4770; 931 W. Belmont Ave. 773-770-6953

The drink: The P.B. Confidential, one of four hot chocolates on the winterized menu at Forever Yogurt, includes a pass through the toppings bar, which tempts with sea salt, cinnamon, mini-M&Ms, baby chocolate chips and more.
Price: $3.49 plus 50 cents for toppings
Tasting notes: This stuff is silky smooth, just rich enough and tastes like liquefied Reese's peanut butter cups. Bonus points for being able to choose your type of milk (whole, lowfat, skim or soy). Resist the urge to add the German chocolate cake marshmallows; they just leave behind a flurry of tiny coconut shreds that annoyingly lodge themselves in your teeth. —LISA ARNETT

COCOA FACTOR

hot chocolate at Medici on 57th in Hyde Park » Mexican hot chocolate at Cafe Jumping Bean in Pilsen » Champurrado at Big Star in Wicker Park

HOT RIGHT NOW

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KEEP ON YOUR RADAR

Bar Toma *110 E. Pearson St. 312-266-3110*
Braving the Mag Mile holiday shopping crowds is now significantly more tolerable thanks to the abundance of tasty pizzas and wine on tap at Tony Mantuano's new casual Italian eatery.

Yusho
2853 N. Kedzie Ave. 773-904-8558
Former Charlie Trotter's chef Matthias Merges is grilling up yakitori in Logan Square.

BLT American Brasserie
500 W. Superior St. 312-948-8744
A big, opulent eatery from big-name chef Laurent Tourondel on the northwest edge of River North.

Cubby Bear Wrigleyville
1059 W. Addison St. 773-327-1662
Expect major crowds (and plenty of elf costumes) when the annual TBOX pub crawl comes to a close Saturday night at this popular Wrigleyville spot.

Pizza Persona
614 W. Diversey Parkway
773-327-8500
This DIY pizza joint in Lincoln Park just started stocking beer and wine and plans to celebrate its grand opening by doling out free food Sunday.

LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE PHOTOS

—LISA ARNETT AND EMILY VAN ZANDT

Rob Elgas of NBC5 hosts

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7 spots to drink wine on tap

BY LISA ARNETT, REDEYE

Watch your back, beer. Draft wine is popping up more and more at local bars and restaurants. Lower prices, longer shelf life and less packaging waste are just a few of the reasons owners have hopped on the wine-on-tap trend this year. Drink up at any of these seven spots.

Bar Toma
110 E. Pearson St.
312-266-3110
Tony Mantuano's recently opened Italian eatery serving pizza, homemade gelato and lots of vino.

Bombay Spice Grill & Wine
111 W. Illinois St.
312-477-7657
Indian fare with a heart-healthy slant in River North.

Eno
505 N. Michigan Ave.
312-321-8738
Mag Mile wine bar inside the Intercontinental Hotel.

Farmhouse
228 W. Chicago Ave.
312-280-4960
Down-home Midwestern-inspired tavern on the northern edge of River North.

Foodease
835 N. Michigan Ave.
312-335-3663
Gourmet market with a cute little bar inside Water Tower Place.

Paris Club
59 W. Hubbard St.
312-595-0800
Sceney French restaurant and bar from RJ and Jerrod Melman.

Farmhouse's white wine on tap
WILLIAM DESHAZER/TRIBUNE

Vera
1023 W. Lake St. 312-243-9770
Former Carnivale chef Mark Mendez's Spanish-inspired wine bar in the West Loop.

LMARNETT@TRIBUNE.COM | @MMXDINING

MORE COMING SOON
Draft wine also is in the plans for Urban Union in Little Italy, opening in late December, and Hopleaf's Michael Roper has been a fan of the concept for years, with hopes to work it into the expansion plans for his Andersonville bar.

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BILL HOGAN/TRIBUNE

BOOZE REVIEW

BIG EDDY RUSSIAN IMPERIAL STOUT BY LEINENKUGEL

What it is: A bold Russian imperial stout from Leinenkugel's. Yes, the Wisconsin brewery known for light beers best suited for baseball games and mowing the lawn is getting ambitious. Its Russian imperial stout—"Dark and complex with 11 malts and grains balanced by three different and distinct hops," the label says—is part of its rotating collection of seasonal Big Eddy beers.

This is a bold, 9.5 percent ABV stout that not only turns the notion of Leinenkugel's upside down, but it offers a hearty winter warmer.

In the bottle: Pours straight black into your glass, looking almost like spent motor oil—a compliment, of course—foaming up into a dark tan head. It smells earthy and chewy, with overtones of licorice, ripe fruit and booze; if I didn't know better I would have guessed it was barrel-aged (it's not). It is also chewy in the mouth, comprehensively filling the senses and full of roasted warmth. It finishes, however, with a surprisingly dry and admirable snap that makes it drinkable.

It's easily the best Leinenkugel's beer I've had. Side note: I drank a bottle of the 2011 release with a bottle from 2010, which was a revelation. In a year, Big Eddy Russian Imperial Stout became silkier, rounder and a little sweeter.

Drink it with: Barbecue. Or it would be a nice counterpoint to a rich dessert such as creme brulee.

Where to buy: Leinenkugel's Big Eddy Russian Imperial Stout is available in four-packs at most finer liquor stores and on draft at Heartland Cafe (7000 N. Glenwood Ave.), among other locations.

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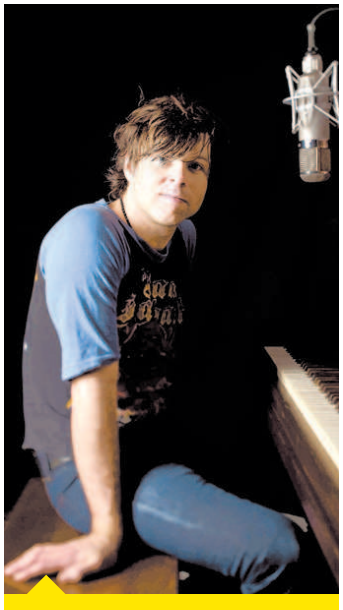
WEEKEND'S TOP SHOWS

Tori Amos
8 p.m. Sat. $39.50-$59.50. The Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State St. 312-462-6300.
A striking vocalist and pianist, no matter what songs she performs.

Bon Iver
7:30 p.m. Fri. $40. UIC Pavilion, 525 S. Racine Ave. 800-745-3000.
Justin Vernon brings a large band and great material back to town.

The Felix Culpa
5:45 p.m. Fri. $11. Metro, 3730 N. Clark St. 773-549-0337.
If you're a fan, you'd better be there. It's going to be their last show.



Ryan Adams
7:30 p.m. Sun. $45. Cadillac Palace Theatre, 151 W. Randolph St. 800-745-3000.
Find a die-hard fan and debate if he's softened since marrying Mandy Moore.

FRIDAY

THE DAN BAND
9 p.m. $22.50-$25. House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St. 312-923-2000.

DWELE
9 p.m. $25. Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-489-3160.

MAKESHIFT PRODIGY
9 p.m. $10. Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave. 773-281-4444.

PETE ROCK
9 p.m. $15. The Shrine, 2109 S. Wabash Ave. 312-753-5700.

PETER BRADLEY ADAMS
7:30 p.m. $8-$10. Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508.

POKEY LAFARGE & THE SOUTH CITY THREE
10 p.m. $10-$12. Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508.

ROY HAYNES AND THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH BAND WITH ROY HARGROVE, REGINALD ROBINSON
8 p.m. $26-$86. Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave. 312-294-3000.

SHEMEKIA COPELAND, BILL BRICKEY
8 p.m. $21-$25. Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-728-6000.

THE STRING CHEESE INCIDENT
8 p.m. $47.25 ($108.25 for three nights). Aragon Ballroom, 1106 W. Lawrence Ave. 773-561-9500.

SATURDAY

APOLLO CHORUS OF CHICAGO: HANDEL'S 'MESSIAH'
3 p.m. $15-$75. Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave. 312-427-5620.

FISHBONE
9 p.m. $20. Bottom Lounge, 1375 W. Lake St. 312-666-6775.

JD MCPHERSON
10 p.m. $10. Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508.

OVER THE RHINE
7 and 10 p.m. $24-$28. Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-728-6000.

VIRGINIA COALITION
10 p.m. $15. Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-525-2508.

WOODS
9:30 p.m. $13-$15. Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave. 773-278-6600.

SUNDAY

CELTIC THUNDER CHRISTMAS
3 p.m. $34.50-$75. Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Rd., Rosemont. 847-671-5100, 312-559-1212.

TRIBES
8 p.m. $8-$10. Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508.

WINTERBLOOM
7 p.m. $18-$22. Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-728-6000.

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3 SONGS I LOVE

BY SCOTT BOLOHAN, REDEYE SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR AND MUSIC ENTHUSIAST

NEW
Nothing But Our Love
Dale Earnhardt Jr. Jr.

Right before Thanksgiving, Dale Earnhardt Jr. Jr. played a free show at the Cubby Bear. A guy came over to me and shook my hand and told me I was really awesome. I was pretty flattered. Then he asked if he could open for my non-existent band. I have no idea who he thought I was, but I told him, "Sure." Sorry, guy. At least you got to see this Detroit duo's mix of catchy indie-pop layered with Kanye West-esque production values play an awesome show. It's a great moment when the fuzzed-out guitars unexpectedly come in during the chorus.

OLD
A Day in the Life
The Beatles

My first concert was Ringo Starr in 1994. I've subsequently dressed up as Paul McCartney and John Lennon for various school projects. I've walked Abbey Road barefoot. I went to see Paul twice this year. I like the Beatles. It's hard to comprehend how awesome they really were since they've been a part of our culture for such a long time. It's become cliche how good they are. But this is my favorite Beatles song and transitively the Best Song Ever Written. When somebody speaks and Paul goes into a dream and let's out the long "Ahhhhh," it gives me chills every time.

THE ONLY BEARABLE SONG TO HEAR AT A SPORTING EVENT
Seven Nation Army
The White Stripes

Somehow every arena in the world has about 15 songs with the usual "Welcome to the Jungle"/"Thunderstruck"/"We Will Rock You" type ingrained in our brains to the point they are just noise and no longer songs. I went to a soccer match in London a couple of years ago and the entire crowd chanted Jack White's guitar line after a goal. It was truly an awesome moment merging sports and music. Now "Seven Nation Army" has started to enter the canon of American sporting event songs, the first to really make a dent in decades. Enjoy it before it gets overplayed into "Rock and Roll Part 2."

LISTEN IN » Listen to these tracks on our Spotify playlist at **bit.ly/3songs**

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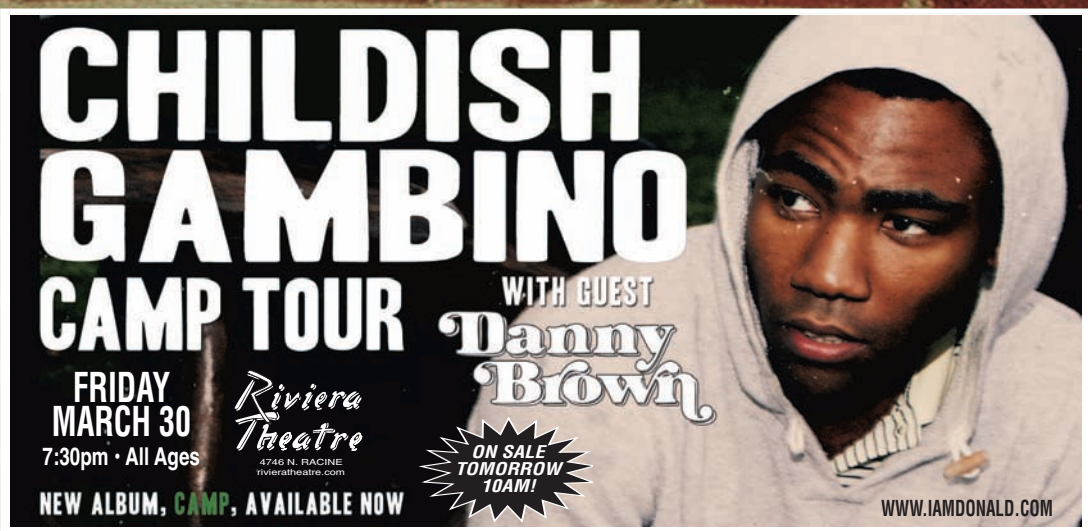

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THE CLASH

DEBATING WHATEVER TIMELY MUSICAL QUESTION THAT STRIKES A CHORD WITH US

Vernon
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Justin Vernon's indie rock act Bon Iver has risen from playing venues such as Schubas to playing Chicago Theatre and, on Friday, UIC Pavilion. The group recently received several Grammy nominations, including best new artist.

This question: Does all this mainstream success damage Bon Iver's indie cred?

YES

Dana Moran
DMORAN@TRIBUNE.COM
@REDEYEDANA

How much street cred can a band really maintain once it has reached stratospheric fame? Sure, Bon Iver is playing to the man (and mainstream fans) with a UIC gig, but what might suffer more is their sound. This certainly isn't a musical experience I'd want to have in a huge venue. In terms of having fame both ways, Bon Iver can learn from Death Cab for Cutie—a band that sold out long ago but brought me to tears from the intimacy of their Metro concert in May.

VS

NO

Emily Van Zandt
EVANZANDT@TRIBUNE.COM
@MMXBARS

Ah, "indie cred." The idea that hard-core music nerd fans will fall away once a band has performed on enough late-night TV shows. It's an altogether ridiculous concept—can't everyone just like music because they like it?—but it happens. The band may be reaching a wider audience, but as long as Vernon keeps experimenting and letting Kanye sample his work, I think their "cred" will be fine.

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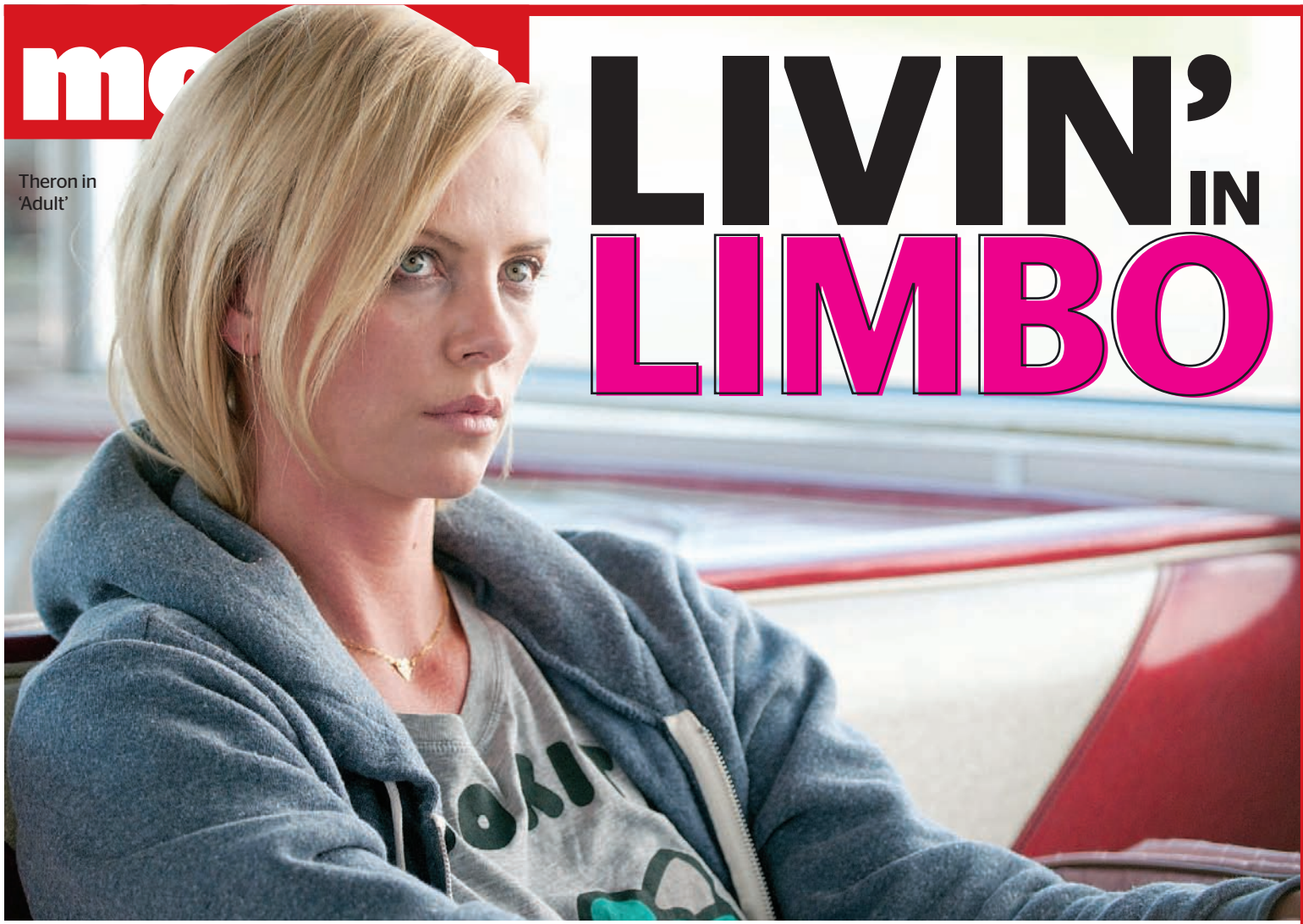

Theron in 'Adult'

LIVIN' IN LIMBO

FAST PAISED
Matt Pais
» mpais@tribune.com
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"Young Adult" asks us to root for a bad person to stop being so bad. Yet Mavis (Charlize Theron) does nothing to suggest that she earns this attention. If anything, she represents the exact kind of fallen star who thinks she deserves more than she really does.

More problematically, the reunion of director Jason Reitman and writer Diablo Cody ("Juno") establishes characters everyone recognizes—those doomed to live in the past of both high school triumphs and humiliations—and finds no undiscovered territory or unexpected wrinkles. Mavis has returned, post-divorce, from her successful life in Minneapolis to her small hometown of Mercury, where people don't wear

Young Adult
(R)

fancy dresses and chain restaurants generally offer the only dinner options. How. Lame.

Mavis hopes to win back her ex, Buddy (Patrick Wilson), even though she just received an email announcing the birth of Buddy's first child with his wife (Elizabeth Reaser). Mavis cares not for details such as this. She has deluded herself into believing she and Buddy are meant to be together—a transparently pathetic mission Mavis' old classmate Matt (Patton Oswalt) observes partly out of curiosity and partly out of concern.

Very obviously, Cody's script for "Young Adult" sounds little like the snappy, fast-moving "Juno," which has aged pretty badly in the past few years. (You aren't really still using "home-skillet" in conversation, are you?) While Cody, thankfully avoiding any new pop culture terminology, delivers a few good one-liners (says Matt, self-aware to an unrealistic degree, "I'm a fat geek; I know what a zombie is"), she leans heavily on big speeches of explanation and on-the-nose emotional release, without fully developing anyone but Mavis. And Reitman's traditional desire for everyone to turn out OK once again rings false.

Theron perfectly demonstrates the hovering embarrassment of a woman who used to be a big deal, yet where the movie's power should be lies only cynicism.

Suburban happiness exists for the domestically comfortable but not the lonely, who haven't shaken off their wounds any better than Mavis has outgrown her days as the prom queen. She often subsists on half-watching the Kardashians on TV, implicitly longing to be part of the world where beauty and money seemingly lead to no problems of any significance. Had "Young Adult" featured the latest footage from Kim's failed marriage, Mavis would get her reality check much earlier.

NOW SHOWING

The Sitter
(R)

With "The Sitter," director David Gordon Green ("Your Highness") has delivered his second mediocre comedy of 2011, this time without the use of a Minotaur penis.

As R-rated bad taste once again stands in for cleverness, pre-weight loss Jonah Hill stars as a smug, lazy jerk who ping-pongs between being a nice, confident guy and the kind of idiotic doormat who would endanger three children to buy cocaine for his almost-girlfriend (Ari Graynor, overdue for better jobs).

Essentially redoing 1987's more likable "Adventures in Babysitting" while adding gay stereotypes and a scene of a kid urinating on a bat mitzvah dance floor, first-time feature writers Brian Gatewood and Alessandro Tanaka get a few laughs from the awkward, mumbly routine Hill does better as a sidekick, not a star. A few isn't enough; "The Sitter" runs only about 75 minutes, but few would complain if it ended sooner.

> "I think every generation makes movies in the vein of the ones that they grew up with. ... I think the generation you grew up in influences a person."

—**Jonah Hill** has said "The Sitter" invokes memories of the 1980s flick "Adventures in Babysitting." In September, I asked him why the '80s keep popping up onscreen. **M.P.**

Shame
(NC-17)
Brilliant movie, brilliant Fassbender

The Muppets
(PG)
Life's a happy song

My Week with Marilyn
(R)
Another Oscar nod for Michelle Williams

Hugo
(PG)
Overrated but still solid

Arthur Christmas
(PG)
Still better than most family flicks

Enough with the holiday movies

Sofia Vergara in 'Eve'

FAST PAISED
Matt Pais
» mpais@tribune.com
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» Connect the stars of "New Year's Eve" on *Page 58*

New Year's Eve
(PG-13)

Perhaps at some point in the future, a great movie will feature the line, "Ladies, may the best va-jay-jay win!"

That line, spoken about two pregnant women (Jessica Biel, Sarah Paulson) competing to deliver just after midnight Dec. 31 and win $25,000, probably represents all that needs to be said about "New Year's Eve."

But why would I stop there?

In a film whose idea of timely humor means referencing "Girls Gone Wild" and Guantanamo Bay and whose storytelling approach boils down to, "Why tackle one story sincerely when you can do a shamelessly superficial take on 12?" the world bears little resemblance to our own.

A major record label is a family business where an executive (Josh Duhamel), tired of threesomes and looking to settle down, gets a laugh out of a Socrates joke at a swanky party; a nearly 50-year-old singer (Jon Bon Jovi), who apparently performs only covers and pouts about the ex-fianceé (Katherine Heigl) he dumped, is considered the hottest thing in the music industry; and a sad woman (Michelle Pfeiffer) quits her job so a courier (Zac Efron) can help her complete patronizing versions of her New Year's resolutions before the new year even starts. Hey, why go to Bali when you can go to a Brooklyn spa that looks like the "Eat Pray Love" version of Bali?

Many other big celebrities (Ashton Kutcher, Lea Michele, Seth Meyers) co-star alongside Oscar winners (Hilary Swank, Robert De Niro, Halle Berry), but describing every plotline would take longer than anyone spent thinking about the movie itself. Repurposing the more-is-more, so-dumbed-down-even-inanimate-objects-can-understand-it style they drooled out in last year's "Valentine's Day," writer Katherine Fugate and director Garry Marshall clearly just wanted to apply the same mind-numbing hokiness to a holiday that the entire world has no choice but to recognize.

That doesn't mean "New Year's Eve" is all-inclusive; the film still laughs at several minority characters' (Sofia Vergara, Hector Elizondo) misuse of English and suggests that the only relevant New Year's experiences take place in Times Square. After all, that's where people test confetti and pause their party to watch a member of the Times Square alliance (Swank) speak so movingly about an electrical problem that she's told, "You spoke eloquently about the ball getting stuck." Really.

Just in case you think any shallow, blatantly obvious ideas didn't make it into the movie, its creators toss in the requisite characters getting trapped in an elevator, an insultingly insincere nod to the military and pre- and post-movie voiceover clarifying the meaning of love and New Year's Eve—news flash: they are both good things.

Couldn't there have been an old horny guy and a generically cute kid or something? Wait, both of those are here too, further proving that parties like "New Year's Eve" are the reason some people prefer to stay home.

MOTION PICTURE DIRECTORY

Handicapped Access ◆ Digital Sound ✔ Dolby Stereo ★ No Passes Hearing - Impaired

G - General audience *PG - Parental guidence suggested* *PG-13 - Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13*
R - Restricted, under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian

600 N. MICHIGAN (AMC)
600 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago
888-AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily

- **Tower Heist** (PG–13) 11:05,1:40,4:05,6:40,9:15
- **The Ides of March** (R) 11:25,2:00,4:40,7:35,10:05
- **Immortals 3D** (R) 1:35,4:10,6:50,9:30
- **Hugo** (PG) 3:30 P.M.
- **Arthur Christmas** (PG) 11:35,4:45,9:40
- **Arthur Christmas 3D** (PG) 2:10,7:20
- **Hugo 3D** (PG) 10:45,12:30,6:30,9:25
- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG–13) 10:50,1:35,4:20,7:05,9:50
- **New Year's Eve** (PG–13) 10:50,1:30,4:15,7:00,9:45
- **The Sitter** (R) 10:55,1:05,3:15,5:30,7:45,10:00
- **The Muppets** (PG) 11:15,1:50,4:35,7:15,9:55

LANDMARK CENTURY CENTRE CINEMA (LANDMARK)
2828 North Clark St., Chicago
(773) 509-4949

- **Shame** (NC–17) 1:40,2:45,4:05,5:10,6:45,7:40,9:15,10:10
- **The Descendants** (R) 1:20,2:00,3:55,4:40,6:40,7:20,9:20,10:00
- **My Week With Marilyn** (R) 1:30,4:20,7:10,9:30
- **Melancholia** (R) 1:00,4:00,7:00,9:55
- **The Skin I Live In** (R) 4:10,10:05
- **Martha Marcy May Marlene** (R) 1:35,7:35

CITY NORTH 14 (REGAL)
2600 N. Western Ave.
(800) 326-3264 #1642

- **The Sitter** (R) 12:00,2:10,4:30,6:45,9:00,11:20
- **Hugo** (PG) 7:30,10:30
- **Arthur Christmas** (PG) 11:50,2:20,4:50,7:40,10:10
- **New Year's Eve** (PG–13) 11:45,1:15,2:00,2:45,4:20,5:00,5:50,7:20,8:00,8:45,10:20,11:00
- **Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked** (G) Advance Tickets Available
- **Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows** (PG–13) Advance Tickets Available
- **Mission: Impossible -- Ghost Protocol** (PG–13) Advance Tickets Available
- **A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas** (R) 11:30 P.M.
- **Jack and Jill** (PG) 1:00,3:20,5:40,8:20,11:10
- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG–13) 12:45,3:45,7:00,10:00
- **Happy Feet Two** (PG) 3:00,8:10
- **The Muppets** (PG) 1:50,2:30,4:40,5:15,7:50,10:35
- **Puss in Boots** (PG) 1:30,7:10
- **Happy Feet Two 3D** (PG) 12:20,5:30,10:50
- **Immortals 3D** (R) 12:10,3:10,6:00,9:15
- **Hugo 3D** (PG) 12:30,3:30,6:30,9:30
- **Arthur Christmas 3D** (PG) 4:10,9:45
- **The Muppets** (PG) (Open captioned) 11:40
- **The Sitter** (R) 11:30,1:40,4:00,6:15,8:30,10:45

DAVIS THEATRE (VALUE)
4614 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago
(773) 784-0893

- **The Descendants** (R) 4:45,7:20,9:45
- **The Muppets** (PG) 4:40,7:00,9:20
- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG–13) 5:00,7:30,10:00
- **J. Edgar** (R) 4:15,7:00,9:50

FORD CITY 14 (AMC)
S. Cicero at 76th., Chicago
(888) AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily

- **Puss in Boots** (PG) 1:15,5:55,10:35
- **Puss in Boots 3D** (PG) 10:50,3:35,8:20
- **Immortals 3D** (R) 11:25,2:10,4:45,7:35,10:15
- **Hugo** (PG) 10:25,1:15,4:10,6:55,9:50
- **Arthur Christmas** (PG) 10:40,1:30,4:15,6:50,9:40
- **Happy Feet Two** (PG) 10:40,1:25,3:55,6:45,9:20
- **Pastorela** (R) 11:45,2:30,5:15,8:25
- **The Greatest Miracle 3D** (NR) 1:00,5:00
- AMC Independent **The Greatest Miracle 3D** (NR) 11:00,3:00,7:00,9:00
- **Arthur Christmas 3D** (PG) 1:30,7:25
- **Hugo 3D** (PG) 10:35,4:20,9:45
- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG–13) 10:30,11:10,1:25,2:00,4:35,5:05,7:40,8:10,10:25
- **New Year's Eve** (PG–13) 10:20,1:20,4:20,7:20,10:10
- **The Sitter** (R) 10:30,12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:15
- **The Muppets** (PG) 10:55,1:45,4:30,7:25,10:05
- **Jack and Jill** (PG) 10:15,12:30,2:50,5:05,7:35,10:05

GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER
164 State Street
(312) 846-2800

- **The Science of Sleep** (R) 6:00 P.M.
- **Silent Souls** (NR) 6:15 P.M.
- **Everyday Sunshine: The Story of Fishbone** (NR) 8:00 P.M.
- **The Guard** (R) 8:00 P.M.

LOGAN THEATRE
2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago
(773) 252-0628

Call theatre for show information

MUSIC BOX
3733 N. Southport, Chicago
(773) 871-6604

- **Raiders of the Lost Ark** (PG) 2:30,5:00,7:20,9:45
- **Young Goethe in Love** (NR) 3:10,5:20,7:30,9:40
- **The Room** (R) 12:00 Midnight
- **Bellflower** (R) 12:00 Midnight

THE PATIO THEATER
6008 W. Irving Park Road
(773) 685-4291

- **Happy Feet Two** (PG) 7:00,9:30

RIVER EAST 21 (AMC)
322 E. Illinois Street, Chicago
(888) AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily

- **Tower Heist** (PG–13) 10:55,1:35,4:15,7:15,9:55
- **Young Adult** (R) 10:15,11:15,12:00,12:45,1:45,2:30,3:15,4:15,5:00,5:45,6:45,7:30,8:15,9:15,10:00,10:45,11:45
- **Moneyball** (PG–13) 11:10,5:10,10:55
- AMC Independent **Like Crazy** (PG–13) 7:35,10:05
- **The Ides of March** (R) 2:20,8:25
- AMC Independent **The Descendants** (R) 10:20,11:35,1:20,2:30,4:20,5:20,7:15,8:15,10:15,11:15
- **Immortals 3D** (R) 11:05,1:50,4:35,7:20,10:10
- AMC Independent **My Week With Marilyn** (R) 10:10,12:40,3:05,5:40,8:20,11:10
- **J. Edgar** (R) 10:05,1:15,4:25,7:40,10:55
- **Hugo** (PG) 10:20,1:20,4:25
- **Arthur Christmas** (PG) 10:15,12:50,3:30,6:05,8:40,11:25
- **Hugo 3D** (PG) 11:20,2:20,5:25,8:25,11:20
- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG–13) 10:30,1:35,4:45,7:25,8:20,10:20,11:20
- **New Year's Eve** (PG–13) 10:00,11:00,1:00,2:00,4:00,5:00,7:15,8:00,10:15,11:00
- **The Sitter** (R) 10:35,11:45,1:10,2:15,3:45,4:45,6:10,7:10,8:25,9:25,10:40,11:40
- **The Muppets** (PG) 10:45,11:45,1:40,2:40,4:30,5:30,7:30,10:30
- **Jack and Jill** (PG) 3:35,6:00,8:30,11:00

SHOWPLACE VILLAGE CROSSING (AMC)
7000 Carpenter Rd., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #2309

- **Happy Feet Two: An IMAX 3D Experience** (PG) 12:20,3:20,6:10,9:00
- **Tower Heist** (PG–13) 10:35,1:25,4:15,7:10,10:00
- **Puss in Boots** (PG) 10:10,12:35,3:10,5:45,8:20,10:55
- **A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas** (R) 10:30 P.M.
- AMC Independent **The Descendants** (R) 10:20,1:05,3:55,7:00,10:05
- **Immortals 3D** (R) 10:05,12:55,3:45,6:50,9:40
- AMC Independent **My Week With Marilyn** (R) 11:35,2:20,5:10,7:50,10:35
- **J. Edgar** (R) 11:30,2:55,6:20,9:45
- **Hugo** (PG) 12:45,6:40
- **Arthur Christmas** (PG) 10:15,3:50,9:50
- **Happy Feet Two** (PG) 11:10,2:05,4:55,7:45
- **Shortcut to Happiness** (PG–13) 10:20,1:20,4:20,7:20,10:20
- **Arthur Christmas 3D** (PG) 10:00,12:30,3:15,6:00,8:40
- **Hugo 3D** (PG) 10:15,1:10,4:25,7:30,10:40
- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG–13) 10:25,1:30,4:35,7:40,10:45
- **New Year's Eve** (PG–13) 11:50,2:50,5:50,8:50
- **The Sitter** (R) 10:30,1:00,3:30,6:00,8:30,11:00
- **The Muppets** (PG) 11:15,2:10,5:05,8:00,10:55
- **The Muppets** (PG) 10:00,12:40,3:35,6:30,9:25
- **Jack and Jill** (PG) 10:05,12:25,3:00,5:35,8:10,10:50

WEBSTER PLACE 11 (REGAL)
1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #1641

- **The Sitter** (R) 12:10,1:10,2:30,3:30,4:50,5:50,6:40,7:10,8:10,9:00,10:30
- **Hugo** (PG) 4:20,10:10
- **Arthur Christmas** (PG) 4:45,9:35
- **New Year's Eve** (PG–13) 12:00,1:00,1:30,2:40,3:50,5:20,6:30,7:20,8:00,9:10,10:40
- **Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked** (G) Advance Tickets Available
- **Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows** (PG–13) Advance Tickets Available
- **Mission: Impossible -- Ghost Protocol** (PG–13) Advance Tickets Available
- **J. Edgar** (R) 12:25,3:45,6:50,10:05
- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG–13) 1:30,4:30,7:30,10:35
- **The Muppets** (PG) 12:40,1:20,3:40,4:10,7:00,9:40
- **Immortals 3D** (R) 9:50 P.M.
- **Hugo 3D** (PG) 12:30,3:20,6:20,9:15
- **Arthur Christmas 3D** (PG) 2:10,7:15

SHOWPLACE GALEWOOD 14 (AMC)
E. Side of Central Ave., just S. of Grand Ave., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #1646

- **Tower Heist** (PG–13) 11:30,2:00,4:35,7:05,9:40
- **Puss in Boots** (PG) 10:00,2:40,7:10
- **Puss in Boots 3D** (PG) 12:15,4:55,9:25
- **Immortals 3D** (R) 11:25,2:10,4:45,7:20,10:15
- **Hugo** (PG) 10:25,4:05,9:35
- **Arthur Christmas** (PG) 11:20,1:50,4:20,6:50,9:15,11:40
- **Happy Feet Two** (PG) 10:45,1:20,3:55,6:30,9:05,11:35
- **Arthur Christmas 3D** (PG) 10:05,12:30,2:55,5:20,7:45,10:10
- **Hugo 3D** (PG) 11:35,2:30,5:25,8:15,11:05
- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG–13) 10:10,11:00,1:00,1:45,3:45,4:30,6:40,7:35,9:30,10:20
- **New Year's Eve** (PG–13) 11:45,2:35,5:35,8:25,11:10
- **The Sitter** (R) 10:20,12:30,2:40,4:50,7:00,9:10,11:20
- **The Muppets** (PG) 11:50,1:25,2:25,5:15,6:55,8:00,10:35
- **Jack and Jill** (PG) 10:50,1:05,3:25,5:40,8:10,10:30

SHOWPLACE CICERO 14 (AMC)
4779 W. Cermak., Cicero
(800) 326-3264 #1644

- **Tower Heist** (PG–13) 11:35,2:35,5:15,7:50,10:30
- **Puss in Boots** (PG) 10:05,3:10,8:30
- **Immortals 3D** (R) 11:45,2:40,5:20,8:05,10:40
- **Hugo** (PG) 12:20,5:30,10:35
- **Arthur Christmas** (PG) 11:40,2:10,4:50,7:25,9:55
- **Happy Feet Two** (PG) 11:20,2:20,4:40,7:15,9:45
- **Pastorela** (R) 10:50,1:20,3:40,6:10,8:40,11:10
- **Arthur Christmas 3D** (PG) 11:00,1:40,4:15,6:40,9:15
- **Hugo 3D** (PG) 10:30,1:15,4:20,7:20,10:10
- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG–13) 10:40,11:30,1:25,2:20,4:25,5:10,7:10,8:00,10:10,10:45
- **New Year's Eve** (PG–13) 10:30,1:30,4:30,7:30,10:25
- **The Sitter** (R) 10:00,12:15,2:30,4:45,7:00,9:10,11:15
- **The Muppets** (PG) 11:15,2:15,5:00,7:40,10:15
- **Jack and Jill** (PG) 11:10,1:35,4:00,6:20,8:45,11:00

SHOWPLACE ICON AT ROOSEVELT COLLECTION
Clark & Roosevelt, South Loop, Chicago
(312) 564-2104

- **Immortals 3D** (R) 11:30,2:10,5:10,7:50,10:55
- **Hugo 3D** (PG) 10:30,12:40,1:30,3:50,4:30,6:50,7:20,9:40,10:30
- **Happy Feet Two 3D** (PG) 11:10,1:40,4:10,6:40,9:20
- **Arthur Christmas 3D** (PG) 10:15,12:50,3:30,6:20,9:00
- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG–13) (Closed caption) 10:45,1:45,4:45,7:45,10:45
- **The Sitter** (R) ★ 10:20,11:50,12:40,2:30,3:20,5:00,6:10,7:40,8:40,10:15,11:10
- **New Year's Eve** (PG–13) ★ (Closed caption) 12:20,3:10,6:00,8:50,11:30
- **New Year's Eve** (PG–13) ★ 10:00,1:00,4:00,7:00,10:00
- **The Muppets** (PG) 10:40,1:10,3:40,6:30,9:10
- **Tower Heist** (PG–13) (Closed caption) 11:40,2:20,5:15,8:10,11:00
- **J. Edgar** (R) (Closed caption) 10:10,1:15,4:20,7:30,10:40
- **The Descendants** (R) 10:05,10:50,1:20,1:50,4:15,4:50,7:15,7:50,10:10,10:50
- **My Week With Marilyn** (R) 11:20,2:00,4:40,7:10,9:45

VIP Premium 21+

- **The Sitter** (R) ★ *VIP Premium 21+* 10:20,12:40,3:20,6:10,8:40,11:10
- **New Year's Eve** (PG–13) ★ *VIP Premium 21+* 10:00,1:00,4:00,7:00,10:00

OAK PARK

LAKE CINEMAS (CLASSIC)
1022 Lake Street, Oak Park
(630) 444-FILM #560

- **The Descendants** (R) 1:30,4:10,7:00,9:30
- **J. Edgar** (R) 2:00,5:00,8:00
- **Hugo** (PG) 3:45
- **Arthur Christmas** (PG) 12:00,2:15,4:30,6:45,9:00
- **Hugo 3D** (PG) 1:00,6:30,9:15
- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG–13) 12:00,2:30,5:00,7:30,10:00
- **New Year's Eve** (PG–13) ★ 1:50,4:25,7:00,9:35
- **The Muppets** (PG) 12:00,2:25,4:50,7:15,9:40

EVANSTON

CENTURY 12/CINEARTS 6 (CENTURY)
1715 Maple Ave., Evanston
(847) 492-0123

- **Hugo 3D** (PG) 11:40,2:35,5:30,8:25
- **J. Edgar** (R) 1:05,4:10,7:15,10:20
- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG–13) 12:00,1:25,2:50,4:15,5:40,7:05,8:30,9:50
- **Arthur Christmas** (PG) 12:05
- **Hugo** (PG) 1:10,4:05,7:00,9:55
- **The Muppets** (PG) 11:35,1:00,2:15,3:35,4:50,6:10,7:25,8:45,10:00
- **The Sitter** (R) 11:10,12:25,1:30,2:40,3:45,4:55,6:00,7:10,8:15,9:25,10:30
- **New Year's Eve** (PG–13) 11:20,12:45,2:10,3:30,5:00,6:25,7:50,9:15,10:40
- **The Descendants** (R) 11:15,12:35,2:00,3:20,4:45,6:05,7:30,8:50,10:15
- **Like Crazy** (PG–13) 12:55,3:15,5:35,7:55,10:10
- **My Week With Marilyn** (R) 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:25
- **Puss in Boots 3D** (PG) 11:25,4:20,9:20
- **Immortals 3D** (R) 11:30,2:20,5:00,7:40,10:35
- **Happy Feet Two 3D** (PG) 1:50,6:50
- **Arthur Christmas 3D** (PG) 2:30,5:05,7:35,10:05

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Wilson and Theron in 'Young Adult'

Theron's getting good at going bad

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Charlize Theron's first major role in three years finds the actress in fine form.

Actually, scratch that. It finds Theron in terrible form: In "Young Adult," an uncomfortable comedy from the "Juno" team of writer Diablo Cody and director Jason Reitman, Theron is Mavis Gary, a boozing, depressed ghostwriter for a tween girls book series.

When Mavis hears that her school beau and his wife have had a baby, she falls into a funk. She decides to go back to her hometown and steal Buddy Slade (Patrick Wilson) from his new family and reclaim what's rightfully hers. She piles into her Mini Cooper, pops in a mixtape and heads for hicksville. All sorts of destructive, obsessive, disastrous behavior follows.

"Mavis really has this incredible loneliness, that's where all of this stems from," Theron says about the messed-up woman she plays in "Young Adult." Theron, winner of the best actress Academy Award for her grueling turn as a serial killer in 2004's "Monster," is generating Oscar buzz again for this latest role.

But back to the loneliness.

"I think that's what people connect with," Theron said recently on the phone from New York. "Because there are things that she does that we might not connect with—that are, in fact, pretty despicable. She does stuff that is hard to watch. But this foundation of loneliness, and this lack of a tool set to deal with these very adult issues ... I think that's moving, and relatable, and also very entertaining."

Some of the most moving and entertaining parts of Reitman's film come when Theron's Mavis strikes up a friendship with a townie she meets in a bar—who had watched her longingly, and invisibly, back in their high school days. Comedian Patton Oswalt plays this guy, who comes with his own emotional—and physical—handicaps.

"I had never met Patton before," Theron says. "And he's incredible. Funny, perceptive. And his character is kind of ethically there, whereas Mavis has thrown her ethics out the window."

Theron didn't accept the role without some trepidation.

"It scared me—not in the sense of the subject matter, but more in the sense that I better not 'eff' this up." She laughs. "Like, can I actually pull this off?"

But Theron "definitely saw all the potential that this character had. For me, it always takes a little while to figure things out. ... I had to sit with it a bit, think about it and daydream about it and get scared of it and say, 'No, no, I don't think so,' and then ... 'Yes, OK!' "

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NEW ON DVD

BY RICK BENTLEY, THE FRESNO BEE

Friends with Benefits *(R)*

Two people (Justin Timberlake, Mila Kunis) try to have sex without emotional ties. The film really is like two people having sex without any obligations: Everything's OK as long as you don't need any emotional connection and just want the immediate gratification of a few jokes about romantic comedy cliches. Timberlake and Kunis have some chemistry and are at their best when they are trading snappy banter. A lot of that dialogue is delivered during sex scenes and it works—for a while. The sex scenes go on way too long and eventually just become a blur of flesh and funny.

Cowboys & Aliens *(PG-13)*

Daniel Craig, the current James Bond, trades his 007 status for a six-shooter when he wakes up on the lone prairie with no memory and a weapon on his wrist that's keeping a sleepy Western town from being overrun by aliens. Harrison Ford plays the local cattle baron and bully. The special effects work is fine, but nothing original. And inconsistencies chip away at the action until all that's left is a mediocre action film that wastes its two big stars.

The Debt *(R)*

Helen Mirren stars in this story of the hunt for a Nazi war criminal. It takes a very talented hand to make a movie that covers two different time periods. The storytelling needs balance or the focus falls off, and the casting has to be perfect. Director John Madden got it half right.

The Hangover Part II *(R)*

Phil (Bradley Cooper), Stu (Ed Helms), Alan (Zach Galifianakis) and Doug (Justin Bartha) travel to Thailand for Stu's wedding. The original "Hangover" storyline about the bachelor party from hell felt forced, contrived set against the manufactured neon lights and glitter of Las Vegas. "Hangover Part II" still depends on the same crude and raunchy humor, but moving the action to Thailand makes the relentless debauchery seem far more dangerous and natural. It's not that funny, but it's better.

The Help *(PG-13)*

A white aspiring writer's friendships with black maids in 1962 Mississippi results in a provocative book. Director Tate Taylor has managed to pull off the near impossible. He created a sweet, intelligent and serious movie about racism in the Deep South of the '60s and kept the humor that made the book by Kathryn Stockett a best-seller. To accomplish this, Taylor brought together the strongest female cast since "Steel Magnolias."

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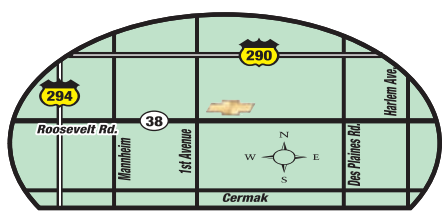

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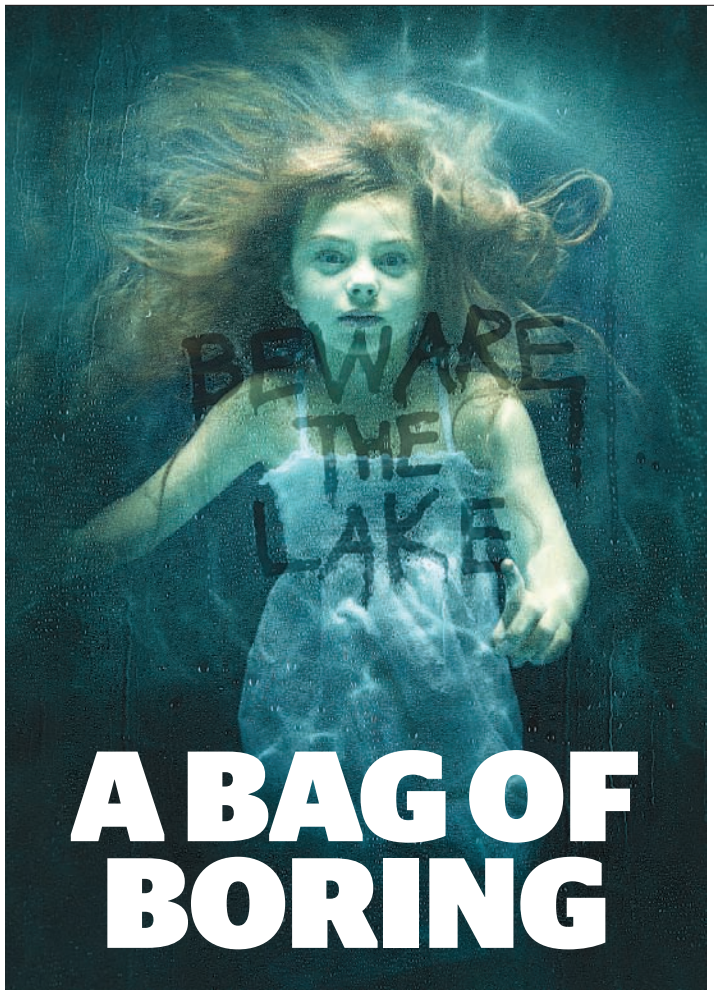

A BAG OF BORING

SHOW PATROL

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Stephen King's Bag of Bones

8 p.m. Sunday and Monday, A&E

"Stephen King's Bag of Bones" (left) scared me out of my seat, but not nearly enough to justify sitting through the two-night affair.

The adaptation of King's novel is too long by one night, plodding to a resolution that most viewers will have figured out by the time it drags them there. Pierce Brosnan plays Mike Noonan, a writer devastated by the accidental death of his wife Jo (Annabeth Gish). He decides to heal from his loss at the cabin in a small lakeside community Jo visited often—without Mike.

There he wrestles with his grief, not to mention nightmares, ghosts and a cranky old man (William Schallert, who once starred in "The Patty Duke Show") and his creepy assistant.

Brosnan shows Noonan's emotional torment, and Schallert still is impressive at 89. But they can't make up for a lackluster mystery. Aside a few jolting moments, the movie is as thrilling as a bag of bones.

Snowmageddon

8 p.m. Saturday, Syfy

When I say the title of this week's disaster of a Syfy movie, "Snowmageddon," I actually got excited because that's what everyone called the Chicago blizzard in February. That was fun, wasn't it? Compared with watching this cliché-ridden dud, surviving our snowmageddon's blinding sleet and piles of snow was a walk in the park—on a sunny day.

You could have slept exactly 8 more minutes ...

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show patrol

"The Graham Norton Show" airs at 9 p.m. Saturdays on BBC America, followed by "Would You Rather ...?" at 10 p.m.

Graham Norton

SHOW PATROL
Curt Wagner
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Graham picks his poison

Graham Norton has a gift for gab, which is evident in two series that can be seen Saturdays on BBC America. In his self-titled talk show, the Irish comedian chats up British and American celebrities each week. On his new panel show "Would You Rather ...?" he presents celebs and comics with ridiculous moral quandaries. In the spirit of both shows, I asked Norton to play "would you rather ...?" with me.

Would you rather give Madonna a pedicure or inject Botox into Cher's face?

I'll go with the pedicure because ... I think if I [bleep] up a pedicure [Madonna] might forgive me, whereas if I [bleep] up Cher's Botox she would not forgive me.

Would you rather spend a week with the Kardashians or be locked in a room with Justin Bieber for a day?

Bieber for a day! I can learn dance moves and it's just a day, whereas a week with the Kardashians could lead to a coma.

Would you rather be Britney Spears or Lindsay Lohan?

Oh God, that really is a tough choice. I'll go with Britney Spears just because I'd be older so I'd have less life to live. Yeah, poor old Lindsay. It is awful. I mean both of those stories are kind of tragic in their own ways.

Would you rather be roasted by Ricky Gervais or watch all of the American 'The Office'?

I'll go with roasted by Ricky Gervais, just because that is quicker, then it's done.

MORE ONLINE » Read more from the Graham Norton interview at **showpatroltv.com.**

West in 'Appropriate Adult'

'Wire' cop to killer

Appropriate Adult
9 p.m. Saturday
Sundance Channel

Dominic West won't be playing another serial killer anytime soon.

The British actor, best known for his role as hard-drinking detective Jimmy McNulty on "The Wire," had his fill of the darker side while filming "Appropriate Adult." In the movie, he plays real-life serial killer Fred West (no relation), who with his wife, Rosemary, killed at least 12 young women and girls in Gloucester, England.

The 1994 case became one of the biggest police investigations in British history and changed the life of Janet Leach, a social worker trainee who sat in on police interrogations as an "appropriate adult," a role in the British legal system meant to safeguard the rights of suspects in police custody.

The film focuses on Fred's psychological grip over Janet (played by Emily Watson) as opposed to the terrible murders. It's still a grisly tale, fueled by West's mesmerizing performance.

West was able to listen to police recordings to help his performance. "After you've listened to a guy for about 50 hours you tend to just know how he thinks and clicks and speaks and what makes him tick," he said.

What West noticed most about Fred was his ability to manipulate those around him—and not just Janet.

"In photographs of him with police, the police are often smiling," West said. "But there was a disconnect for him. He's talking about chopping up his daughter like chopping wood or putting the trash out."

West said he was happy filming took just four weeks, because he didn't want to spend any more time plumbing Fred's psycho psyche. And as to whether he will do another "pretty dark and pretty intense" killer role, he was quick to answer.

"I was offered another one actually," he said. "But I think I've done that. So no." **C.W.**

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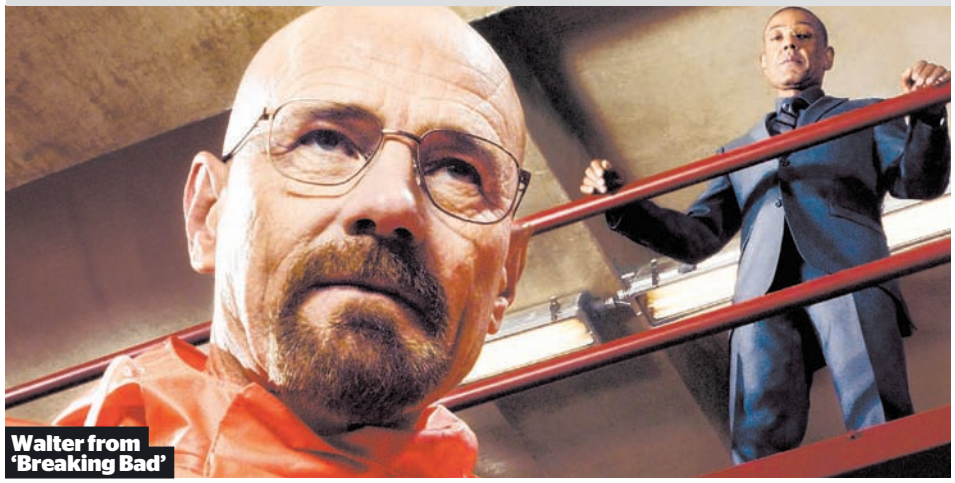
QUESTION OF THE WEEK

WHO WAS THE BEST CHARACTER ON TV IN 2011 AND WHY?



Walter from 'Breaking Bad'

Daryl from 'The Walking Dead'

TWITTER

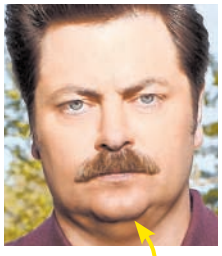
@imthemahon
Walter White from Breaking Bad. So awesome to see his master plan climax to the end of the season.

@natcammarata
Chris Traeger, parks & rec. He is lit'rally one of my interests on Facebook.

@michaellazaro29
Jax, Sons of Anarchy

@TomBMacDonald
Toss-up for me. So splitting into 2 categories for 2011: #BestGoodGuy = Eric Taylor #FNL and #BestBadGuy = Mags #Justified

@waderobin
Barney Stinson ... he does everything guys wish they could



@epurdy
Ron Swanson, obviously. He's hilarious, he has a giant mustache, loves red meat and speaks his mind.

@RevDJEsq
Best character? Ron Swanson, easily. Luke from Modern Family, too.

@thestormwithin
Teresa Colvin from "The Chicago Code" because she had the strength to fight against Alderman Gibbons.

FACEBOOK

Cheryl Durlak
Constance (Jessica Lange) American Horror Story. She deserves an Emmy!

Jordan Patterson
Walter White Breaking Bad. This season he came full ciricle to a complete monster when he used to be a humble chemistry teacher.

Patric Lewis
RON PAUL!

Kristin Ann Vanderbilt
Daryl Dixon from "The Walking Dead" : The Hillbilly With a Heart of Gold

Shandira Clark
The zombies of The Walking Dead because they're zombies...

Giovanni Hernandez
Jess! (Zooey Deschanel) From New Girl! She's adorkable! :D

Ariel Martinez
Gus Fring.

Vince LiFonti
Comedy: Abed-Community (Danny Pudi) / Drama: Gustavo-Breaking Bad (Giancarlo Esposito)

Adrienne Sioux Koopersmith
Person of Interest on CBS - Thurs. around 8 PM - the lead 2 characters are TOPS - of any tv I ever saw - the last 54 years.

Sandy Torres
Steve buscemi, boardwalk empire!

VOTE Vote in RedEye's Best TV Character Tournament next week at **showpatroltv.com**.

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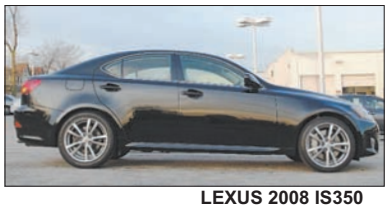

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TOYOTA 2000 SOLARA SLE V6, Good Miles! Auto, CD,
Leather, Traction & Power! Clean CarFax! One Owner!
(M1426A) **$8,995 888-641-7122**

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MINI 2008 COOPER,
Only 29K Miles! Bluetooth, USB iPod Adapter, Cold Weather
Package & Much More (M1283A) **$16,995 888-641-7122**

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HONDA 2008 CRV EXL 4WD
Leather Loaded! Auto, Power, Moonroof & More! (M324A)
$SCAN FOR DETAILS & PRICE 866-411-9912

scan to see all of our inventory

NISSAN 2008 ALTIMA 3.5SE
Auto, A/C, CD, Moonroof, & Power! Priced To Sell! (M251A)
$13,980 866-411-9912

scan to see all of our inventory

CHRYSLER 2005 300 TOURING,
44K Miles! Heated Leather, Moonroof, Navigation, Chromes,
Power & More (M351A) **$SCAN FOR PRICE 866-411-9912**

scan to see all of our inventory

BMW 2008 X5 4.8Si AWD
Only 27K Miles! Loaded! Navigation & Rear Entertainment
Too! (LP3552A) **$SCAN FOR PRICE 866-411-9912**

hookups

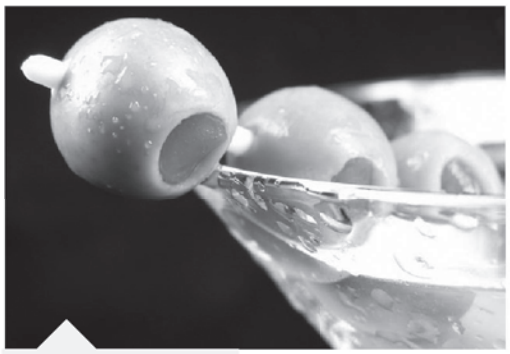
MISSED CONNECTIONS | LINE OF THE WEEK

Woman for man / Blue Line / Wednesday

I have to look away from beauty lest it stop me from forgetting my own name.

WHAT'S YOUR DRINK DATE PERSONALITY?

What you order on a date definitely can send a signal, whether it's one you're conscious of or not. Sure, the list below is mainly full of generalizations, but there's some truth to every stereotype. THE DATE REPORT



Martini
If you're a guy, you're trying to impress (and it's probably working). If you're a girl drinking a dirty martini, you're a hot mess: the dirtier, the messier, the hotter.

Vodka on the rocks
Too self-conscious to actually order a martini.

Vodka cranberry
When in doubt, you stick to what you drank in college.

Lillet/Campari/Aperol
You're twee, and possibly like to throw around words like "mixology."

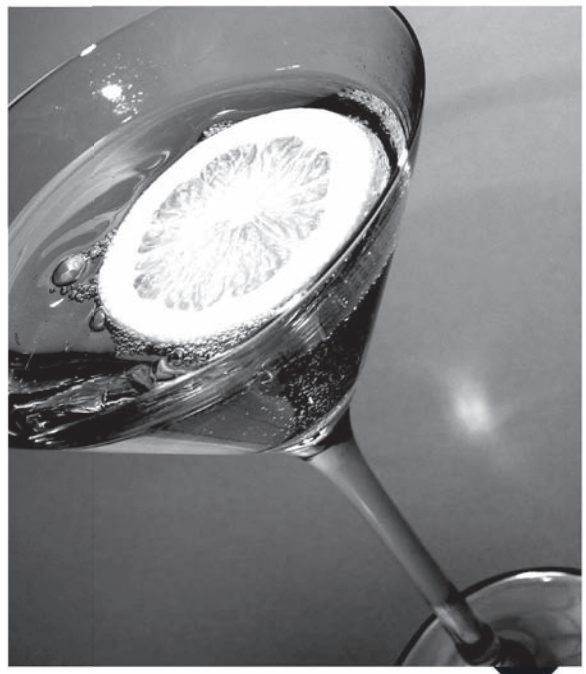
Whiskey, neat
You're hot. Regardless of gender.

Jager
Secretly wishing you were hanging out with your buddies.

Vodka gimlet
You're a huge dork, but you hope sort of in a cool way?

Old Fashioned
"Mad Men" is your favorite show: you either want to be, or have sex with, Don Draper.

PBR
You're drinking quickly on your way to a non-profit fundraiser, followed by a poetry reading in a former industrial warehouse.



A cocktail, while at a dive bar
Insufferable.

Margarita, on the rocks
You've decided to have a good time tonight.

Margarita, frozen
You're in Cabo.

A beer, while at a cocktail bar
Overprotective of your manhood or unadventurous.

White Russian
Obsessed with "The Big Lebowski," and probably "The Daily Show." Or, you just like to drink dessert.

Stella Artois
You have no particular knowledge or affinity toward beer, so you just order "Stella" 'cause it's familiar.

Tequila shots
You're either getting laid, or just getting through it.

White wine
You're definitely a woman. You're possibly a little uptight.

Prosecco
You're often a little uptight, but tonight you're looking to party.

REDEYE DATING | POWERED BY *How about we ...*

"Go to Boiler Room and enjoy the whiskey on tap and pizza, eh eh?"

CariWafflehouse
24 / Female / Straight

"Put on our santa hats. get drunk. buy a tree. then carol the whole way home to go decorate it. (with friends of course, that tree will be pretty heavy)"

Ricosuavesanssuave
21 / Male / Straight

"Take a cooking class together. The Chopping Block has some good ones."

Waytoofun
32 / Male / Gay

"Adventurously run on along the lakefront then get hot cocoa."

Abouttotoo
32 / Female / Gay

INTERESTED? **Redeyedating.com** is the modern way to date. Just say "How about we ..." and fill in the dots with a date you want to go on. You go online to get offline.

8 places to meet someone special in December

The Date Report

In the checkout line ...

Of Target. Of Nordstrom. Of J. Crew. Of Dick's Sporting Goods. Of Bath and Body Works. Anywhere you go to buy a present for your friend/mom/dad/kid brother/co-worker, you're likely to run into someone else who's also shopping for gifts. If you're brave, you can always approach someone by asking "Hey, can I get your opinion? I'm shopping for my mom/dad, and ..."

At a bar on a weeknight

We're not talking about the packed weekend crowd at the coolest bar in town, we're talking about the quiet neighborhood spot that goes overlooked during summer because you'd rather be drinking outside. But when it's cold, you're far more likely to spend a Wednesday night sipping a whiskey neat at the closest bar you can find ... and you'll be pleasantly surprised by the crowd.

At a holiday party

At no other point of the year will you be invited to such a concentrated string of social events, many of which will be full of people whom you've never met before. Definitely a big enough dating pool to get you through January and February.

At the airport

Holiday delays are to be expected, so go prepared! Head to the airport bar and see what other miserably stranded people might need to pass the time. Go to the computer station and ask to borrow someone's plug. The possibilities are endless!

Volunteering

If you're generous and selfless enough to spend time volunteering during the holidays, you're sure to meet some other selfless and kind people as well. And then you guys can get married and save the world and continue to make the rest of us look bad.

Free concerts

You don't have to be super into Christmas to appreciate the offerings of the season. Find a free concert of Handel's "Messiah" at a church. Or if you love Christmas schmaltz, head down to your local tree lighting and find someone singing "Frosty The Snowman" as loud as you are.

At the one place open on Christmas Day

If you don't celebrate Christmas, you don't have a ton of choices about where to eat or hang out on Christmas Day. This is a good thing: it means all the other non-celebrating people are forced to go to the same Chinese restaurant as you. Solidarity!

Under the mistletoe
It's got to work for some people, no?

OMG :)

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SHERMAN of Skokie

On The Corner of Cicero & Howard

DODGE · Jeep · CHRYSLER · RAM

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Supplemental Side-Curtain Airbags, Keyless Enter-N-Go™, Passive Entry, Remote Keyless Entry, Sentry Key® Theft Deterrent System, Air Cond w/ Dual Zone Temp Control & Air Filtering, Fog Lamps, Tilt / Telescope Steering Column, Quadra-Trac I® 4WD System, Electronic Stability Control, 4-Wheel Traction Control, Media Center 130 CD/MP3 Radio, SiriusXM Satellite Radio w/ 1-Yr Radio Subscription, 6 Speakers, 17-Inch Aluminum Painted Wheels, Cloth Bucket Seats with Adjustable Head Restraint & More! #245305 **Text #245305 to 37483**

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($2499 due at lease inception includes 1st mos. payment & security deposit. Plus tax, title, lic., & doc fee w/ok credit.)

DODGE — NEW 2012 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SE

3.6 V6, Rear A/C, Media center 130 -inc: AM/FM/stereo w/CD/MP3 player, 2nd row fold-in-floor bucket seats-inc: 3rd row Stow 'N Go w/tailgate seats, Steering wheel mounted audio controls, Pwr windows w/driver-side 1-touch feature, Pwr locks, Keyless entry w/immobilizer, Air conditioning w/ dual zone temp control & More! #245190
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Electronic Stability Control, Roll Mitigation Front Airbags, Supplemental Side-Curtain Airbags, Front Seat Active Head Restraints, Anti-Lock 4-Wheel Disc Brakes, Media Center w/ AM/FM Radio, CD Player & WMA/MP3 Jack, Outside Temp Display, Illuminated Cup Holders, 60/40 Split Folding Backseat, Rear Seat Heat Ducts, Tilt Steering, Cruise Control, Body Color Fascias, Rear Window Defrost & Wiper, Roof Rails, 16" Styled Steel Wheels & More! #248998 **Text #248998 to 37483**

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Air Cond w/Dual Zone Auto Temp Control & Air Filter, Rear Air Conditioning with Heater, Electronic Vehicle Info Center w/ Reconfig Display, Power Front Windows One-Touch Up and Down Feature, Antilock 4-Wheel Disc Brakes, Heating Element for the Exterior Mirrors, Automatic On / Off Headlamps #245044
Text #245044 to 37483

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($2500 due at lease inception includes 1st mos. payment & security deposit. Plus tax, title, lic., & doc fee w/ok credit.)

DODGE — NEW 2012 DODGE JOURNEY

3RD ROW SEAT

2.4L I4 w/ 173 Horsepower, 4-Speed AutoStick Transmission, Pwr Heated Ext. Mirrors, 4.3-Inch Uconnect Touch™ Radio, Six Speakers, Premium Cloth Low-Back Seats, Keyless Enter 'n Go™ System & More! #245169
Text #245169 to 37483

SHERMAN PRICE **$17,790***

DODGE — NEW 2012 DODGE AVENGER MAINSTREET

Body Color Pwr Heated Ext Mirrors w/Man Fold-Away, Sentry Key® Theft Deterrent System, Headlamps with Turn-Off Time Delay, Air Conditioning w/ Automatic Temperature Control, Tire Pressure Monitoring Display, Electronic Stability Control, Traction Control, Advanced Multistage Front Airbags, Remote Keyless Entry with Illuminated Entry, Power Windows withDriver's One-Touch-Down Feature & More! #245388 **Text #245388 to 37483**

SHERMAN PRICE **$15,995***

MSRP $22,245
SAVE $6,250 off MSRP*

Jeep — NEW 2012 Jeep WRANGLER 4X4

A/C

3.6-Liter V6 SMPI Engine, Command-Trac® Shift-on-the-Fly 4WD System, Electronic Stability Control, Media Center 130 CD/MP3, Steering Wheel-Mounted Audio Controls, Full Metal Doors with Roll-up Windows, Sunrider® Soft Top & More! #245295 **Text #245295 to 37483**

SHERMAN PRICE **$19,740***

RAM — New 2011 RAM CREW CAB 4X4

Electronic Stability Control, Air Conditioning, Antilock 4-Wheel-Disc Brakes, Fold-Away Power Heated Mirrors, Sentry Key® Theft Deterrent System, Power Windows w/ Front One-Touch Up & Down Feature, Power Locks,Trailer Tow Wiring with 4-Pin Connector, #231828
Text #231828 to 37483

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48 OTHERS IN STOCK!

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SHERMAN PRICE **$26,945***

CHRYSLER — ALL NEW 2012 CHRYSLER 200 TOURING

AC, 6 Speed, Auto Transmission, Sunroof, Sentry Key® Theft Deterrent System, Air Conditioning with Automatic Temperature Control, Automatic Headlamps, Tire Pressure Monitoring Display, Leather-Wrapped Steering Wheel, SIRIUS Satellite Radio w/ 1-Yr Radio Subscription, Media Center 130 CD/MP3, Electronic Stability Control, Traction Control #245543 **Text #245543 to 37483**

MSRP $22,120

SHERMAN PRICE **$15,995*** OR LEASE FOR **$199** per mo. 36 mos.*

($1999 due at lease inception includes 1st mos. payment & security deposit. Plus tax, title, lic., & doc fee w/ok credit.)

DODGE — NEW 2011 DODGE NITRO HEAT

3.7-Liter V6 Engine, Electronic Stability Control, Power Heated Exterior Mirrors w/ Manual Fold-Away, Remote Keyless Entry, Sentry Key® Theft Deterrent System, Media Center 130 CD/MP3, SiriusXM Satellite Radio w/ 1-Yr Radio Subscription, 20-Inch x 7.5-Inch Aluminum Chrome-Clad Wheels & More! #232741
Text #232741 to 37483

MSRP: $22,995
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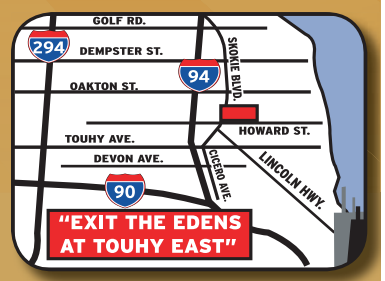

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shop

Holly Swanson's favorite Pilates move

The roll-up: strengthens the abs and stretches the spine and hamstrings. **A.** Get on your back with legs straight and arms overhead **B.** Lift arms to ceiling, engage the abs and flex up and over, reaching for toes one vertebrae at a time **C.** Stretch for toes, roll down one vertebrae at a time using abs to control. Keep shoulders down and abs tight.

LOOKING GOOD!

California Fleece Track Pant, $36 at **americanapparelstore.com**

By Joanna Gustafson
FOR REDEYE

The whole reason we work out is to look good. We want to lose weight, tone up and fit into those skinny jeans. So why shouldn't you look good while working out?

It is possible to snag some cute workout gear that makes hitting the gym a bit easier to bear. We've found some great clothes for the gym that are shown here and asked Holly Swanson, owner of Core Chicago Pilates at 2549 N. Racine Ave. in Lincoln Park, to share some popular workouts for us.

After all, with the holidays creeping ever so close—and all those extra calories lurking—it's time to get serious about getting fit.

Swanson says spinning is a tough workout, but it gets results. "Spinning is great for weight loss and a good cross training choice for runners and swimmers," she said. "I suggest a mix of heavy hills, fast sprints and long flat roads for a good interval workout."

For those a bit wary of trying spinning for the first time, Core offers a half Pilates/half spinning class to ease you in. Plus, if it's your first class at Core, it's free—a good way to test new workouts.

Cardio classes such as Zumba or Piloxing have been popular as of late, while Pilates is a tried-and-true workout, Swanson said.

It's ideal for abdominal strength, increasing flexibility and maintaining a healthy spine and good posture. But make sure to always go to a certified Pilates instructor—and to ask questions. "If you don't know where you are supposed to feel an exercise, ask," she said. "That way you won't get hurt."

JOANNA GUSTAFSON IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR

3/4 French Terry Tee, $16.99 at Old Navy

3Reasons Support Bra, $43 from Title Nine. (Get $5 off from now until Dec. 31 when you mention this article in either the Lincoln Park or Evanston store.)

C9 by Champion Long Yoga Tank, $14.99 at Target

Printed Muscle Up Tank, $39 at **athleta.com**

Sculpted Power Top, $55 at Lucy

Boogie shorts, $42 at Lululemon

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* Drawing odds based on number of entries. Retail value $499.00

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7		2			6			1
	6						3	
2		5		4				
	9						8	
				1		9		2
	2						5	
5			7			2		8
3					4		9	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

1	2	3	7	6	9	4	8	5
4	6	7	5	1	8	9	3	2
8	9	5	4	3	2	7	6	1
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3	7	6	8	4	1	5	2	9
9	1	4	2	5	3	6	7	8
5	8	2	9	7	6	3	1	4

THURSDAY'S SOLUTIONS

A	I	R			A	C	M	E	S		S	C	A	T
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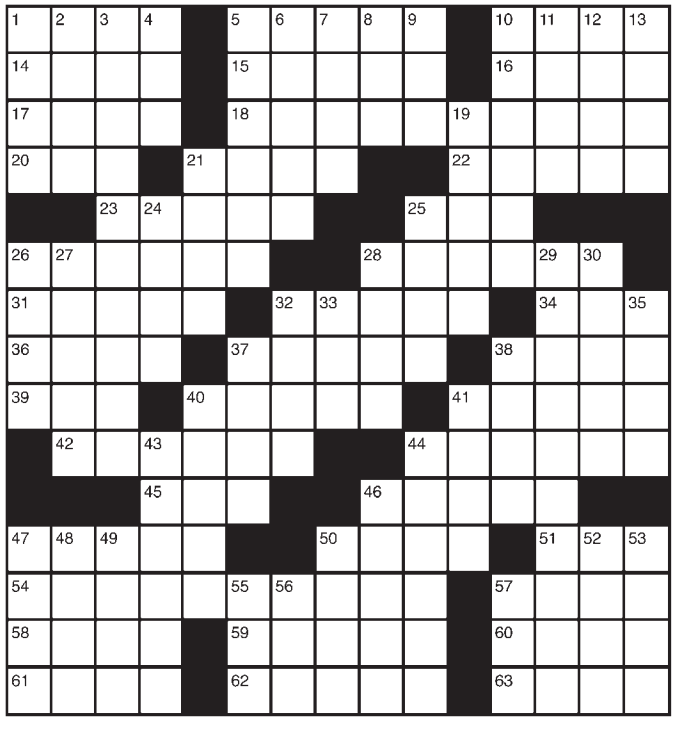
TODAY IN THE YEAR ...

1992: Britain's Prince Charles and Princess Diana announced their separation.
2004: Canada's Supreme Court ruled that same-sex marriage was constitutional.
2008: Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich was arrested on allegations of widespread political corruption.



ACROSS
1 Chopped meat dish
5 Sly; secretive
10 Envelop
14 Poker bet
15 "Ready or not! Here _!"
16 Slacken
17 Plant with fronds
18 Chinese dining utensils
20 Deuce
21 Canary food bit
22 Take forcefully
23 Makes invalid
25 Baby goat
26 TV's "_ & Lacey"
28 Archer's projectiles
31 Plant pest
32 Spring month
34 Shade tree
36 Blemish
37 Glasses, for short
38 Ice on the sea
39 Perpendicular building add-on
40 _ on; tramples
41 Mea _; apology
42 Corrected text
44 Cleansed
45 Poorly lit
46 Backslide
47 Place for a boutonniere
50 Acceptable
51 Mother sheep
54 Evening up; making fair
57 Slender
58 One of 100s after a perm
59 Traveler's stop
60 Steerer's place
61 Holbrook and Linden
62 Group formed to help a sheriff
63 Swirling water

DOWN
1 Weapon handle
2 Once again
3 Fortress; haven
4 Laying bird
5 Actress Tyson
6 Cramps
7 Not naughty
8 Napoleon or Hirohito: abbr.
9 Affirmative
10 Freak
11 Marathon
12 _ for; requests
13 Nuisance
19 Spin
21 Iditarod vehicle
24 College credit
25 Actor _ Kristofferson
26 In _; lest
27 Red Delicious or McIntosh
28 Bands of sparks
29 Rich
30 Hillside
32 Mimicked
33 Vigor
35 Anthropologist Margaret _
37 Wineglass part
38 Complain
40 Not moving
41 _ Cod
43 High principles
44 Get by devious means
46 _ up; forms a queue
47 _ Walesa of Poland
48 Greenish-blue
49 Knitting stitch
50 Is the right size
52 Untamed
53 TV show award
55 Mischief-maker
56 Animal park
57 That woman

The All New
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AL PIEMONTE'S QUALITY PRE-OWNED YEAR END MARKDOWN

2000 CHEVY CAVALIER
Gold, #111105B
$1,955

2000 NISSAN MAXIMA
Beige, #111196A
$3,955

2004 KIA SPECTRA
Black, #N3856
$4,955

2001 ACURA TL-Navi
Tan, #12422B
$4,955

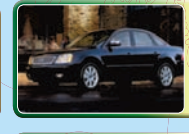
2003 CHRYSLER 300M
Black, #12207A
$4,955

2002 NISSAN ALTIMA
Silver, #12199A
$4,955

2002 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER
Red, #N3734B
$5,955

2005 CHEVY MALIBU
Blue, #12162A
$5,955

2005 FORD ZX5
Gray, #N3778A
$6,955


2005 FORD FIVE HUNDRED
Gray, #11881A
$7,955

2003 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER LT EXT
Gray, #N3732B
$7,955

2003 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN
Silver, #11962B
$7,955

2003 VW PASSAT
Gray, #12379A
$7,955

2004 FORD EXPEDITION XLT
Silver, #N3758A
$8,955

2004 FORD EXPLORER XLT
4x4, Black, #N3707
$8,955

2006 VW JETTA GLE
Silver, #12211B
$8,955

2007 NISSAN VERSA
Black, #N3867
$8,955

2005 CHRYSLER PACIFICA
Silver, #N3705
$9,555

2005 NISSAN MURANO
Silver, #N3859A
$9,955

2005 NISSAN TITAN
Gray, #12222A
$9,955

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Stars with red borders are in "New Year's Eve"

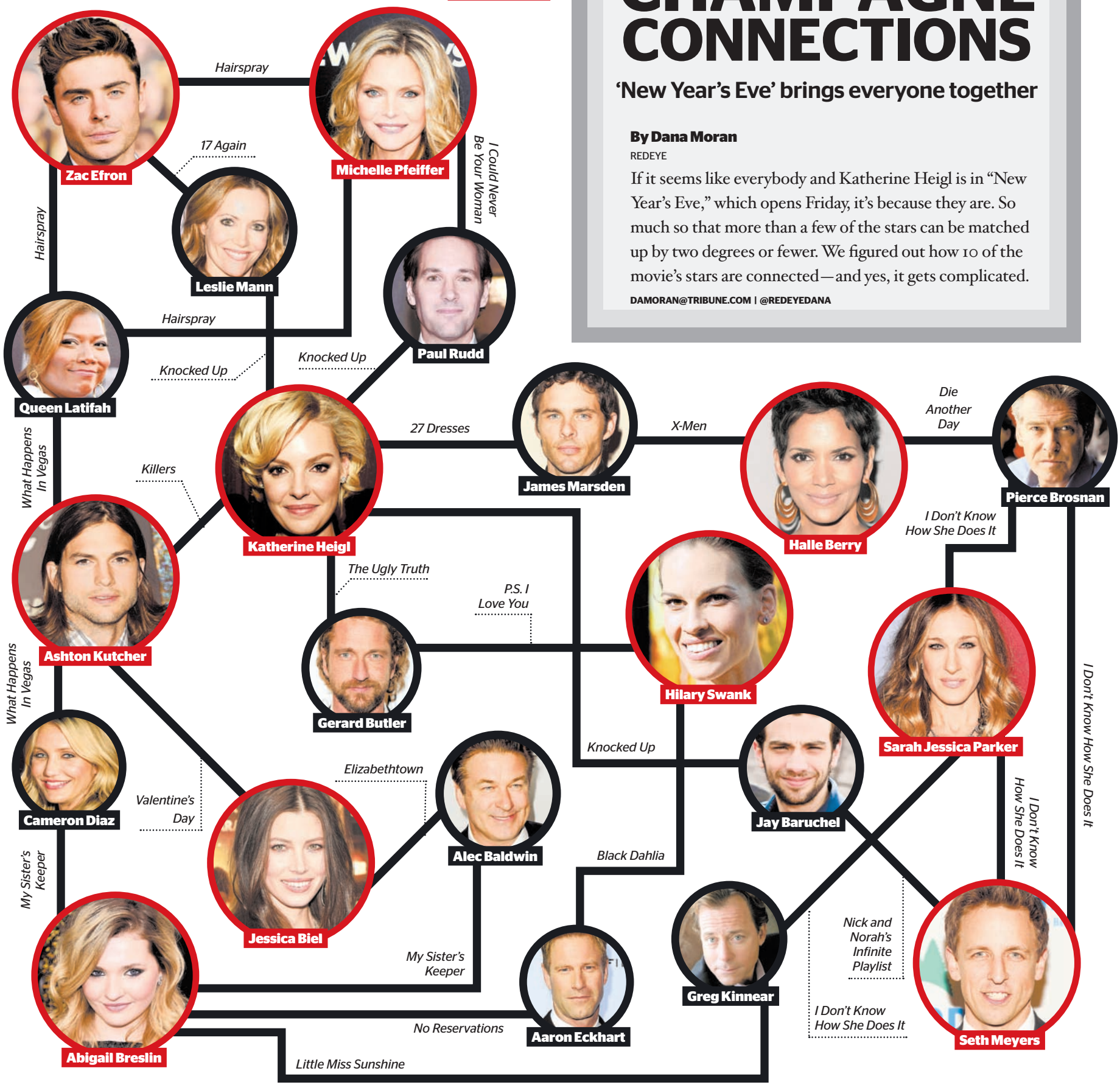
CHAMPAGNE CONNECTIONS

'New Year's Eve' brings everyone together

By Dana Moran
REDEYE

If it seems like everybody and Katherine Heigl is in "New Year's Eve," which opens Friday, it's because they are. So much so that more than a few of the stars can be matched up by two degrees or fewer. We figured out how 10 of the movie's stars are connected—and yes, it gets complicated.

DAMORAN@TRIBUNE.COM | @REDEYEDANA



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red hot

AUG. 7

« HOT DATE
That's when Coldplay will appear at the United Center. Could we get a country duet with Gwyneth Paltrow too?

Cavallari and Cutler
GETTY IMAGES FILE

No deets for you

Kristin Cavallari says she and Jay Cutler are in a good place. "Sometimes, in order for things to get better, they have to end—even if it's momentarily," the newly re-engaged reality TV star told **people.com**. "No one really knows what happened between the two of us, and we want to keep it that way."

THE DIGIT

FOUR

"Transformers" director Michael Bay is in talks to make a fourth installment of the movie franchise, according to **nymag.com**. The new movie would "delve deeper into the Transformers canon to mine older characters and lore," the site reports.

Mission: Possible

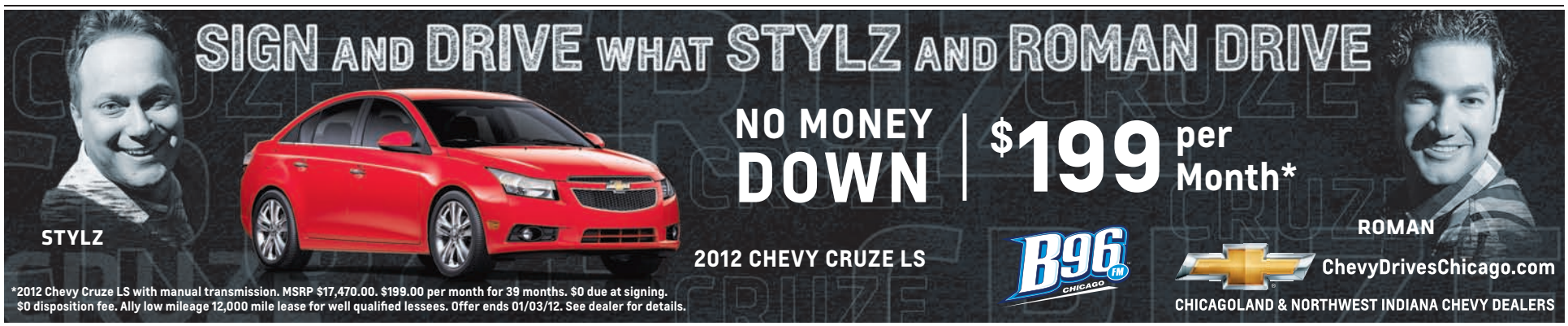
It's been 25 years since we last saw Maverick hug Iceman at the end of "Top Gun." Are they still buds? We might find out, Tom Cruise tells MTV. "We're working on it," he said. "I hope we can figure this out to do it again." That's great and all ... it just won't feel the same without Goose.

Gabourey Sidibe
GETTY IMAGES FILE

PEOPLE PERSON

Gabourey Sidibe is playing the victim again—this time in Foster the People's new video for "Don't Stop (Color on the Walls)." The "Precious" star plays a woman whose DMV driving exam is commandeered by a robber on the run. The video ends with ... well, let's just say it's happier than the end of "Precious."

"OH MY f'ingggg Gahhhh!!!!! MADONNA jus kissed me!!!!! On the lips!!!!!!! It felt sooooo good. Soooo soft!!!! *passes out* aaahhhhh!!!!!!!!!"

—**Nicki Minaj** in a tweet late Wednesday

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